

# The Kingdom Parables: Tares, Mustard Seed, Leaven (Matthew 13:24-43)



# Introduction

- 13:1-53 Eight Parables of the Kingdom
  1. The Sower and the Soils (1-9; [10-17]; 18-23)
  2. **The Wheat and the Weeds (24-30; [34-35];36-43)**
  - 3-4 **The Mustard Seed (31-32) & The Leaven (33)**
  - 5-6 The Hidden Treasure (44) & The Pearl (45-46)
  7. The Net (47-50)
  8. The House Master (51-53) [The Prophet 54-58]
- **The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom** in parables: “things hidden since the creation of the world” (11, 35)

# The Parable of the Tares (24-30)

- “The kingdom of heaven is like . . .” (24a, 31a, 33a, 44a, 45a, 47a)
- What is the Kingdom of God (Heaven) like?
- Story of the Wheat (Good Seed) and the Weeds/Tares/Darnels
  - A Man who sowed **Good** Seed in His Field (24b)
  - But His Enemy secretly sowed Weeds among the Wheat (25) => Wheat field mixed with Tares! (26)
  - Two Questions (27, 28b) [**Evil**: Where and What]
  - The Owner’s Answer (**28a, 29; 30**)

# The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast/Leaven (31-35)

- The Parable of the Mustard Seed (31-32)
  - Like a Grain of Mustard Seed being planted (31)
  - The **Smallest** Grew to the **Largest!** (32a)
  - Becoming a Tree for Birds (32b; Dan 4)
- The Parable of the Leaven (33)
  - Like Yeast/Leaven (Small Amount)
  - Large Amount of Flour/Dough
- Kingdom Secrets in Parables (34-35)

# The Parable of the Tares Explained (36-43)

- Disciples: “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field” (36)
- Jesus’ Interpretation (37-43a)
  - ❖ The Son of Man (37); The Field is the World, The Good Seed => “the sons of the kingdom”, The Weeds => “the sons of the evil one” (38); The Enemy, the Devil; The Harvest is the End of the Age, The Harvesters are Angels (39)
  - ❖ The Coming **Harvest/Judgment Day!** (40-43a)
- “He who has ears, let him hear” (43b)

# Conclusion: Trusting God's Sovereignty

- **The Parables of Tares/Mustard/Leaven**
- **The Secrets of the Kingdom (Already-Not Yet)**
  - **Mystery of Evil/Sin Until God's Judgment Day**
  - **God's Ways of Working (Kingdom Secrets)**
    - **Small Beginnings (Invisible, Seemingly Insignificant) => Greatest Kingdom Victory**
    - **The Way of the Cross: Wisdom and Power of God**
    - **God's Sovereignty—His Grace and Glory**
- **Our Life of Faith: Trust and Obey (Being Faithful to Small things until the End) [1Cor 15:58; Heb 11:6] ("A Long Obedience In the Same Direction")**