Spiritual warfare

• Not a physical struggle, but against spiritual forces of wickedness
• Our weapons are not physical
• We are soldiers of Jesus Christ
  • Disciplined, diligent
  • Not entangled with everyday life
• Christ is the one who fights
  • He will defeat the enemies
  • We defend the kingdom
Spiritual warfare

• Communication
  • With the Lord through prayer
  • With fellow believers

• Supply – Holy Spirit

• Intelligence – the Bible: truth, the enemy, ourselves, our Savior

• Weapons – the Word of God, prayer

• Situational awareness
Words for Satan

- Satan
- Devil
- Evil one
- Accuser
- The ruler of this world
- Prince of the power of the air
- Dragon
- Serpent

- The god of this age
- Beelzebul
- Angel of light
- Tempter
- Enemy
- Deceiver
- Accuser
Words for Satan

- Adversary
- angel of light
- Beelzebul
- Devil
- Dragon
- Evil (one)
- god of this age
- Prince
- Ruler
- Satan
- Serpent
- Enemy
- Deceiver
- Accuser
- Tempter

Graph showing the frequency of words associated with Satan.
Introduction

• Previous chapter
• Main section of parables
• Kingdom parables
Outline

• 1-9 The parable of the sower
• 10-17 Why parables are used
• 18-23 Explanation of the parable of the sower
• 24-30 Parable of the tares
• 36-43 Explanation of the parable of the tares
Parable of the sower
Matthew 13:1-9

1That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. 2And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

3And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

9He who has ears, let him hear.”

• Bad soils
  • No soil – eaten by birds
  • Rocky soil – scorched, withered
  • Thorny soil – choked

• What is needed
  • Good depth
  • Good surroundings
Why parables are used
Matthew 13:10-13

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”
11 Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. 12 For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

• Understanding of mysteries is granted by God
• The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are for disciples
• Parables conceal
Why parables are used
Matthew 13:14-17

Why parables are used
Matthew 13:14-17

• The heart influences the ability of our ears and eyes
• Isaiah’s prophecy was being fulfilled as Jesus taught
• Understanding leads to action

14In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,
‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand;
You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;
15For the heart of this people has become dull,
With their ears they scarcely hear,
And they have closed their eyes,
Otherwise they would see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
And understand with their heart and return,
And I would heal them.’

16But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.
Explanation of the parable of the sower
Matthew 13:18-21

18“Hear then the parable of the sower. 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. 20The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

• One can hear without understanding
• Sowing takes place in the heart
• Not understanding – the evil one takes away
• Hearing, receiving, but no root – falls away
Explanation of the parable of the sower
Matthew 13:22-23

22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

• Path – hears, does **not** understand
• Rocks – hears, but...no root
• Thorns – hears, but...no fruit
• Good – hears, **understands**, fruit
• To be fruitful, hearing needs to lead to understanding
Terms from this parable

• Sower – unspecified, one bringing the word of the kingdom
• Seed – the word of the kingdom
• Soil – the heart
  • Beside the road – does not understand, the evil one takes away
  • On rocky places – hears, no firm root, falls away
  • Among thorns – hears, choked, unfruitful
  • Good soil – hears, understands, bears fruit
• Fruit – unspecified, seed for the next planting
24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. 26 But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. 27 The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Parable of the tares
Matthew 13:24-30

- The purpose of this parable is to illustrate the kingdom of heaven
- Tares don’t bear fruit
- The tares must be left so as not to damage the wheat
- Results
  - Tares burned
  - Wheat gathered to barn
Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
Terms from this parable

• Sower – Son of Man, Jesus Christ
• Field – the world
• Good seed – the sons of the kingdom, Christians
• Tares – sons of the evil one, unbelievers
• Enemy – the devil
• Harvest – the end of the age
• Harvesters – angels
Summary

• Fruitfulness plays a part in both parables. How fruitful are we?
• Do we understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven?
• To be useful, hearing needs to be combined with understanding
• What are we doing to ensure our heart is good soil?
• There is wisdom in letting the tares remain until harvest