

Matthew 13.24-43

The Field is the World

A MENTOR who Introduced me to LIFE in Kazakhstan – Alexander Kuchin
SASHA – let few Friends call Him or for MOST Alexander Alexandrovich!!

I called him SASHA – his Boss – he Worked for KECS, I was Director

Well TRAINED Worker - Russian Army: Supply Sgt. - Bazooka for New Years!

“We cannot afford to buy the cheap stuff!” Alexander Alexandrovich Kuchin

Right After PERISTROIKA – New Nation KZ – filled with lots of Cheap Stuff

USSR – People had Money but Shops were Empty

KZ – People had NO Money but Shops were Filled

JUST About the ONLY thing FOR Sale THEN was CHEAP Stuff

We bought 4 KITCHEN CLOCKS before we got ONE to Work!

Matthew 13 chapter full of PARABLES – Teachings about Kingdom of Heaven

1. Confusing Kingdom

v. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Even OWN Disciples NOT Understand – Asked Him for Private Interpretation

v. 34 All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable.

3 Parables in our Text Today -

v. 24 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man...

v. 31 “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed...

v. 33 “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven...

What I just SAID is ONE Reason the Parables even Today are Confusing

Parable NOT JUST about Man, Seeds, Leaven– Illustrative STORY

Kingdom of HEAVEN is LIKE this – IT IS THIS WAY WITH the Kingdom Parable’s MEANING in TOTAL IMPACT – Not DEEP Secret in every DETAIL

Like 1st Parable in Chapter – FARMER Sowing SEEDS – Various Reactions

Our TEXT > For the GOOD SEED – Real Followers – Should we Separate?

All 3 Parables > GROWTH is PROCESS, Slower than we may like...

a. Imperceptible

vs. 31, 32 “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds...

Today some SCIENTIFIC SMARTALICS Criticize Jesus – NOT Smallest Seed

I am sure NONE of those Scientific Smarty-Pants are here in ZGC Today!!

If there are... “Smallest of all the seeds planted in 1st Century PALESTINE”

So SMALL that its HARD to See – esp Old Guys who Need Reading GLASSES

v. 35 “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter *what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.*” >> Jesus quotes this PSALM of ASAPH

Conference Last Week – Morning Speaker – made me CRY Every Day

Joseph from Rwandan – Reconciliation - Genocide and Suffering

21 yrs Ago – 1994 – PAIN Still DEEP – More than 1 Million BUTCHERED

April 7 – Participated Service of Remembrance in Rwandan Embassy in Beijing

Ambassador - Great Disappointment in Voice - Some Pastors doing KILLING

Churches TEACHING Ideas that helped CAUSED the Hatred and Prejudice

WORLD has Seen and REMEMBERS many Atrocities in Name of JESUS!
 WHERE is the TRUTH, JUSTICE, MERCY, GRACE?? Where is JESUS??
 Lots of RELIGION! Lots of CHURCHES! TALKING!! – Real Life hard to SEE
 MANY have BAD Church Stories, Telling “Mark Blair the Hypocrite” Stories
 Even with TELESCOPE Sometimes hard to See MUSTARD Seed of Kingdom
 Prophet ELIJAH TRUSTED God’s PROMISE – Rain during DROUGHT...

During REIGN of EVIL King Ahab – ISRAEL was as DRY as California...

And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up...for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.”
 ...And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel...And he said to his servant,
 “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There
 is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times. And at the seventh time he
 said, “*Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.*” And he
 said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop
 you.’” And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and
there was a great rain. 1 Kings 18.41-45

Sometimes GOTTA Look MORE than ONCE – WAIT may SEEM Forever
 WORK of GOD – Sometimes IMPERCEPTABLE – ALMOST INVISIBLE
 SEED – BURIED deep in Ground – TINY Seed – LEAVEN is HIDDEN

b. Indistinguishable - Even when can see Something, not Sure Whatsup

vs. 25 – 27 his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And
 the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you
 not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’

Cannot always distinguish between Wheat and Weeds in this Age

Presence of Evil is Pervasive in WORLD and CHURCH

The parable deals with eschatological expectation, not ecclesiological deterioration. D.A. Carson

NOT about CHURCH Primarily > As Jesus spoke No Christian Church YET
 Every JEW listening to this PARABLE was BORN into National Covenant
 FIELD is WORLD – And GOOD and EVIL are GROWING Together Here
 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered
 violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11.12

CLASH of Good and Evil we SEE in WORLD and CHURCH – See IN US!

“Every Christian is at the same time righteous and a sinner” Martin Luther

c. Invincible Day is Coming when that Distinction Will be CLEARLY Made

SOVEREIGN God has ALREADY TOLD us the END of the Story

v. 33 ...till it was all leavened.” – 20 kilos of FLOUR > 100 LOAVES of Bread

SPECTACULAR Growth will come from INSIGNIFICANT Beginnings

v. 32 ...when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Don't get NERVOUS – Jesus employs some PARABOLIC EXAGGERATION

NOT Literally a TREE – More like MIGHTY VEGETABLE – 2 meters high

Jesus WORD PICTURE > Echoes FAMOUS Old Testament KINGDOM

VISION of BABYLON'S King Nebuchadnezzar...

...a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. Daniel 4.10-12

Now KING of KINGS has Come and BEGUN to RULE

2. Wondrous Weeds

a. **Fast** v. 25 while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds
 SLEEPING does NOT MEAN Sloth – Workers TIRED from Long, Hard Days
 MEANS the ENEMY came in SECRET – DECEITFUL Deeds of DARKNESS
 v. 27 ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have
 weeds?’

Fell ASLEEP Dreaming of Beautiful Field of WHEAT

Woke to the NIGHTMARE of a Field Full of WEEDS

Dr. Luke tells of Paul teaching WORD of God in 1st C Ephesus – Daily for 2 yrs
 ...so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and
 Greeks.
 Acts 19.11

NOT Many yrs Later – Same Apostle, Imprisoned in Rome, Awaiting Execution
 You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me 2 Timothy 1.15

DOES Not take LONG for UNTENDED Garden to become FIELD of WEEDS
 A lie can race all the way round the world while the truth is still lacing up its
 boots.
 Mark Twain

He said that a CENTURY BEFORE the WORLD WIDE WEB

b. **Fake** – Master victim of AGRICULTURAL SABOTAGE

vs. 25,26 his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

Weeds: almost Certainly plant called Bearded Darnel

Closely Related to Wheat > Difficult to Distinguish the 2, esp. when Young

Roots of 2 plants Entangle themselves - Pull Up One / Pulling Up Other

ROMAN LAW in Books agnst SOWING Seeds of DARNEL in Neighbors Field

INSIDIOUS thing about COUNTERFEITS – Looks like REAL THING

ANGRY Master Lashes OUT at TREACHERY v. 28 ‘An enemy has done this.’

vs. 38,39 The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.

The point is simply that the devil is going to bring forward people (whether in the church or out of it) so much like true Christians, though they are not Christians, that even the servants of God will not be able to tell them apart. James Boice

...for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 11.14,15

1 of 12 Apostles: Son of SATAN - Judas their TRUSTED TREASURER

World of TODAY – So many REAL LOOKING FAKES – Easily FOOLED

Kids in Baltimore, “If cops broke Freddy Gray’s neck, why can’t we break their windows?”

Buddhist asks, “If Jesus taught love God and neighbor, why won’t my religion take me to heaven too?”

Worker asks, “If my boss does not pay me enough, why can’t I take a few office supplies when I need them?”

Young person asks, “If sex is such a great joy in marriage, why should we wait to be married to enjoy it?”

Tearful pregnant woman asks, “If the doctor says there is 60% chance my baby will not be normal, why not get an abortion?”

NATO asked, “If Gadhafi is oppressing Libyans why don’t we just take him out and let the Libyans build a better nation for themselves?”

Thrifty disciples ask, “Why should this woman waste her perfume on Jesus when we have so many poor people?”

2 Men ask US Supreme Court, “If we love each other, why can’t we get married?”

“We cannot afford to buy the cheap stuff!” Alexander Alexandrovich Kuchin

ETERNAL Consequences of BELIEVING Good Sounding FAKES

...Christians throw their hands up and declare with finality that the homosexuality debate is over...we are bullied into believing we cannot continue to speak out against the acceptance of practicing this sin in our culture...

Homosexuality is...a gospel issue. When our culture embraces something that sends people to hell (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:10) then it must matter to us... We are not... a “backwards people.” Rather, we are a people looking forward to eternity and that is our motivation... We do so because we are lovers of men and God...we need a generation of Christians who are willing to be courageous enough to minister with compassion and truth to the homosexual community.

Kevin DeYoung,

“What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?,” Crossway, 2015

Homosexual? WARN You AND WELCOME You – as I do ANY Sinner

Homosexuality is not Unforgivable Sin

“When you look for the devil, don’t forget to look in the pulpit.” Martin Luther

ANY Sin Not COVERED by Blood of Christ cannot be FORGIVEN

c. Fire - Easy to tell Older Plants Apart - Separation will come Final Judgment

vs. 39-42 The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

...one of the most explicit accounts of final judgment and of the ultimate fates of the bad and the good which we find in the gospels.

R.T. France

STRANGE Order of Occurrences... v. 30 at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

FIRST Weeds are BURNED / Normal SAFEGUARD Harvest then Clean-Up

BELIEVER’S Ultimate SAFEGUARD will be FINAL Destruction of EVIL

These terms are probably symbolic rather than literal, but, if anything, the reality will be more terrible than the symbol. New Testament teaching about hell is meant to appall us and fill us with horror, persuading us that though heaven will be better than we could dream, so hell will be worse than we can imagine.

R.C. Sproul

Harvest will happen, Wheat gathered into God’s Barn, Weeds will Burn

We should Examine Ourselves > are We are True Children of God or Not

3. The Final Final

Many STUDENTS – know have FINAL Exams COMING – Not be SURPRISE

When have FINALS Coming Life goes ON – New Movies, Apps, Malls, Parties

FINAL FINAL Exam will SURPRISE Many UNPREPARED People

Cataclysmic Judgment of God will make KATMANDU look like Walk in Park

a. Renewal not Rapture

vs. 41,43 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers... Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

PARABLE is Not Enough to Build System of Doctrine

ADDS to Image of EARTHINESS of SALVATION in All of BIBLE

SALVATION is NOT an OTHER-Worldly Experience – God saves this World

BURNS the Weeds so the WHEAT can FLOURISH > SHINE in Saving Grace

Paul promises Thessalonians LIVING Christians NOT be Left Out at 2nd Coming Those Still Alive – CAUGHT UP (Raptured) – to MEET the Coming Lord Jesus

GREAT Promise for those ALIVE at the FINAL DAY – MAY be US!

Many Christian APPLY ESCAPE Idea to LIFE in World EVERY DAY

PRIMARY Focus is ESCAPE – Waiting for Capt. Jesus to Beam them Aboard!

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, *at the renewal of all things*, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19.28

2 Tim 4 – Last Chapter Paul wrote – Tells of his IMMINENT EXECUTION

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 2 Timothy 4.13

Whatever TIME LEFT Paul wants to READ & WRITE More! w/ Warm Coat!!

b. Being and Doing

v. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one...

Parable of Sower – Seed was Word >> SEED are SONS - LOYAL to WORD

The point is simply that the devil is going to bring forward people (whether in the church or out of it) so much like true Christians, though they are not Christians, that even the servants of God will not be able to tell them apart. James Boice

People of Kingdom – Walk the Walk AND Talk the Talk

SURE Belief and Confidence in FUTURE with God – Changes our PRESENT

...heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God...according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3.10-13

c. Permeation not Escalation v. 38 the good seed is the sons of the kingdom
 IMAGE of PLANTING – GRAIN of WHEAT – Planted to GIVE LIFE

RESTLESS Age – Long Term Mission Assignment is TWO YEARS

Life Ahead – Be Somebody - GO SOMEWHERE and Make a LEGACY

CLIMB the Ladder of Corporate SUCCESS or worse of CHURCH Success

...the mustard seed suggests extensive growth and the yeast intensive transformation. The yeast doesn't grow, it permeates...in both parables, it is clear that at present the kingdom of heaven operates not apocalyptically, but quietly and from small beginnings.
 D.A. Carson

We NEED to be FAITHFUL in HARD SOIL – Trust God for Saving FRUIT

We LEAVE place of MINISTRY JUST When we are Starting to SEE Fruit

Look back on 60 Years – 8 yrs Uganda – 7 in Hawaii - 11 in KZ – 6 in BJ

Don't think FULFILLMENT and Joy is OUT There Somewhere – Keep Running

CONTENTMENT comes from CHRIST and living ANYWHERE for HIM

Shocking WORDS of Paul – SAINTS in the SANCTUARY of SEXUAL SIN..

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours
 1 Corinthians 1.2

God's People like RIGHTEOUS Seeds planted and growing GREAT Effect..

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12.3

d. Inoculation not Isolation v. 38 The field is the world

EXPECT Field is CHURCH – World already GONE to HELL

TRUE – Bible describes Satan as Powerful, Active, Fearful in World

SATAN BOUND by Jesus on Cross – Dragon on a Chain – Head been Crushed

Jesus' primary point is probably the coexistence of kingdom people with the world's people in this age.
Craig Keener

Many Christians LIVE IN HOLY HUDDLE – CHRISTIAN BUBBLE

Try and HIDE our Kids from EVIL World – Teach them to ESCAPE Mentality

Create Alternative Christian World – Schools, TV, Newspapers, etc.

Called to be SALT IN the Earth / LIGHT OF the World

ESCAPE from World simply INVITES the Devil to have FREE Reign in It

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:

Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,

And earth and Heav'n be one.

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

We should be More Afraid OF World than FOR it

Jesus NOT AFRAID to Party at Matthew's House

Wore TITLE "Friend of Sinners" like a BADGE of HONOR

Moses prepared People of God to boldly enter godless Canaan

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6.4-7

ALL of Life – God’s Classroom – Point Children to Him – Teachable Moments
 Cannot COVER their Eyes when WALK along Road

Can TALK about the Lord who Rules the World – FIND the Road to HIM

As we walk with our KIDS in this Sad Broken World

We can Tell them about Him who BOUGHT it with his Blood

One Day we will SEE with our Own Eyes Full Manifestation of this Promise...

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his
 Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11.15

Not Believer Yet?

Grim Passage of JUDGMENT FIRE message you NEED to HEAR & OBEY

BAD NEWS that I pray will Scare the HELL OUT of You

GOOD News – Jesus Took Hell’s Punishment for all who TRUST in Him

REPENT – Not just FEEL Sorry, Cry, Apologize – Resolve to Change, Flee Sin

BELIEVE – Died and Rose from the Dead for You – Took Your Judgment

RECEIVE – Embrace of God who Loves You, Enter the Joy of Fellowship

ALREADY pass FINAL FINAL when PLACE Your FULL Trust in Christ

Those who are weeds today may be wheat tomorrow.

St. Augustine

Matthew 13:²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” ³¹He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” ³⁴All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.” ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.