

MATTHEW

13:24-58

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Taught by Simeon Forder on Sunday morning, 9th March 2025 @ Deal Christian Fellowship

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Introduction

Last Sunday morning we began studying chapter 13 of Matthew's gospel account, and in those first 23 verses we saw a change in approach from how Jesus had taught before — for He now began to teach in parables; short stories with a big message. Stories that illustrate truth and make it clear by comparison with something already familiar to the hearer.

And we found this was because there were both those that had accepted Him, and those that had rejected Him. We *read* in verses 11 & 12:

Matthew 13:11-12

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

That is, it was only to be those who genuinely wanted to learn more about Him, that would find their eyes opened, that would have insight into what He was saying.

Overview of chapter thirteen

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- **v1-9** — The parable of the sower
- **v10-17** — The purpose of the parables
- **v18-23** — the parable of the sower explained
- **v24-30** — The parable of the wheat and the tares
- **v31-32** — The parable of the mustard seed
- **v33** — The parable of the leaven
- **v34-35** — Jesus teaching in parables fulfilled prophecy
- **v36-43** — The parable of the tares explained
- **v44** — The parable of the hidden treasure
- **v45-46** — The parable of the pearl of great price
- **v47-52** — The parable of the dragnet
- **v53-58** — Jesus rejected at Nazareth

Now, we began chapter 13 by reading the parable of the sower, which is found in the opening 9 verses of this chapter, which Jesus then explained in verses 18-23. In between those things, we *read* how Jesus explained the purpose of the parables.

This morning, as we continue on, we'll see that verses 24-30 record the parable of the wheat and tares, which is later explained in verses 36-43, and in verses 31 & 32 we'll read the parable of the mustard seed, before verse 33 records the parable of the leaven (one of the shortest of these parables).

In verses 34-35 we'll see Jesus point to how His teaching in parables fulfilled prophecy, then in verse 36 on (as already mentioned) we'll read His explanation of the parable of the tares. In verse 44, we'll read the parable of the hidden treasure, while verses 45-46 record the parable of the pearl of great price. The finale parable is the parable of the dragnet, as recorded in verses 47-52 — though there is possibly another parable within those verses too, which we'll look at too.

So then, we'll find as we go through this chapter, that v1-35 record Jesus' words to the multitude, including the first 4 of these parables, as He spoke from the boat. v36-52 then record the words that He spoke to His disciples back in a house. And the final 5 verses record what happened once He was back in His hometown of Nazareth, where we will see that He was rejected.

Chapter thirteen

Now, as we get going, I want to remind you of what Mark records Jesus say regarding the parable of the sower, the first parable in this chapter, which we looked at last week. He writes:

Mark 4:13

And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

So what is key about the parable of the sower? Well, we understand from it that Jesus is talking about the seed of the gospel being shared, and people's response to it. That there are not only those with hard or distracted hearts that don't respond to it at all, but there are also those that respond to the gospel because they think it will give them a better life here and now, and so make some sort of profession of faith, they call themselves Christians, but actually they don't know the Lord, and when trials and difficulties come, they walk away from church. They are unbelievers still.

Indeed, it is important that we remember that not all those who say they are Christians, are in fact, Christians. The good news, though, was and is that those are not the only kinds of response to the gospel, and we *read* that there are indeed those that respond to it, in whom the seed lands and grows, and produces much fruit. The *quantity* of fruit may vary, but the *presence* of any fruit at all is evidence that those are genuine believers.

Finally, let us note that the birds in that parable (that eat up the thoughts some have toward the gospel) are not a good thing, for we need to be consistent in how we interpret the Bible. Because the Bible is always consistent in how it interprets itself.

Let us keep these things in mind as we study the remaining parables in this chapter. We read the *parable of the wheat and tares* in verse 24 onwards:

Matthew 13:24-30

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

And if you have questions as to what this parable means, then you're in good company, for later in verse 36 of this chapter we read:

Matthew 13:36

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

And explain it He did! And so once again, given that the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself, let us read what Jesus went on to say, in verse 37 on:

Matthew 13:37-43

He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

We should be grateful that Jesus' disciples asked Him to explain this, *and* that Matthew recorded His explanation. Now, the *reason* Matthew recorded it was because the Holy Spirit guided Him to. Which means that God wanted this written down so that you and I would read and hear and listen to it as well. So let us truly hear what God is saying.

Jesus tells us here, that the wheat represents genuine believers. However, the enemy has planted tares among them. The difference? Nothing. At least, not to start with. You see, tares have an almost identical colour, shape, and smell as wheat to start with. They are happy to exist alongside them, and soak up the nutrients of the soil just the same. But these weeds never produce the head of corn that wheat does. And that is much like the false convert who goes to church regularly, that perhaps carries a Bible around with them, and that even tithes. Yet, they are not a genuine believer — and they *can* be hard to spot. But we're not *merely* talking about false converts here, for something far more sinister is going on, for Jesus said that the *enemy* is the one who *planted* them there. This is intentional. So why?

Well, Satan had been prideful, even declaring in his rebellion against God (as recorded in Isaiah chapter 14) that "*I will be like the Most High.*" And then *mankind* was then created in God's image. Of course, Satan didn't take that well, and as you know, he deceived Eve, whose steps Adam followed, the consequence of which was that it broke man's relationship with God. But *now*, Jesus had paid for the sin of the whole world, and was restoring people back into a relationship with God — not only as God's children, but as heirs, even joint heirs with Him! The creation of the church was the stuff of nightmares for Satan.

And so what did Satan do? Well, *one* of his strategies has been to try and destroy the church from the inside by planting false converts and false teachers within it. Those who may say a lot of things that *sound* like the truth, who even have some Christian characteristics, but whose at best do not love the Lord and are not yielded to Him, but at worst whose ultimate goal is to destroy the flock. And we read many warnings of such throughout the New Testament.

In Acts chapter 20, the apostle Paul warned the Ephesian elders, saying:

Acts 20:29-31

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from **among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

To the Corinthian church he said:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

Going on to write later in the same chapter:

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

And Paul was not alone in making such warnings. For the apostle Peter wrote:

2 Peter 2:1-2

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers **among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

While Jude wrote in his letter:

Jude 1:3-4

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. **For certain men have crept in unnoticed**, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Simply put, Satan hates the church. And if he can't crush it through persecution, by attacking it from the outside, then he'll try and destroy it from the inside, or at least try and make it ineffective. And again, *one* of his strategies is what Jesus is speaking of here, that he sows these tares, these false teachers that grow up *with* the wheat, but rather than be of good nutritional value *like* wheat, they are in fact poisonous, just like tares — known by their latin name *Lolium temulentum* — which if eaten, can cause anything from a drunken type nausea, to death.

So, given that false converts and false teachers will exist in this world, and will even be found fellowshipping in some churches, what are we to do about them? Should we go round hunting them down? Jesus says no, that is not where we are to spend our energies. Of course, we are to be wise, we are to be prudent, we are to be careful. And we are still to call out false *teaching*. But so that we don't uproot genuine believers by mistake, we are to leave it to God to *deal* with such individuals, whom, as Jesus makes clear in this parable, will face the dire consequences that await *all* those that reject Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. What we *must* do is hold fast to the Word of God, the Bible, in all things. And I really do mean *all* things.

Now, after the parable of the tares in verses 24-30, we read in verses 31 and 32:

Matthew 13:31-32

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

And we might think that all sounds like a lovely picture of how the church has grown, which is what some teach. But we first must remember that *Jesus*, when giving the interpretation of the parable of the sower, noted that the birds were *not* good, and in fact were a picture of Satan coming and stealing away the thoughts of those who have heard the gospel, that he might distract them with the cares of this life. The birds are ministers of his.

Furthermore, not only are birds consistently used throughout the Bible to speak of evil, but the mustard seed doesn't *naturally* grow into a tree with branches, but rather into a bush. So what we have in this parable is a picture of the church growing abnormally, to the point that the ministers of Satan come to rest in its branches. And oh how that has happened in the church at large today. Rather than maintain the simplicity that is in Christ, it has, in general, become a bloated and bureaucratic organisation, with all manner of wickedness lodged within its branches.

We see denomination after denomination formed, and how many of them have compromised on the Bible here or there, and frankly have become institutions full of unnecessary complications. This was never how the church was meant to be. And we must be wary of falling into that trap ourselves. There are many legitimate and good things that pastors, elders, trustees, and all those who serve need to do for a church to function, for there to be accountability, and that ministry might be effective, fruitful, and a witness to those outside. But if we descend into church growth strategy sessions, and investment portfolios, mission statements, and endless committees and such, then we are losing our way.

Likewise, whenever we pursue anything other than Bible based and Holy Spirit led growth of the church, and instead turn to entertainment, to the tickling of ears, and worldly strategies, while we might find the church grows in number, it will not be in a healthy way. A large church is not a sure sign of a healthy church — for it could also be swollen. We must be careful that the church does not become horribly mixed with the world.

Now, in verse 33 we read:

Matthew 13:33

Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Once again there are those who wrongly believe that the leaven here is a picture of the gospel, and so take this to mean that the church will grow and grow until the whole world becomes saved.

But *nowhere* in the Bible is leaven used to represent anything good. Rather, in the 98 times it is mentioned, it is consistently used to represent sin, including by Jesus Himself, who (we'll read in chapter 16) warned of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and by the apostle Paul who famously, in dealing with sexual sin in the Corinthian church (and their failure to address it), wrote to them in his first letter:

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Persistent or significant sin in the life of a believer confuses an unbeliever, and risks derailing the faith of a young believer. And *like* leaven, like yeast, causes a loaf of bread to rise, so sin causes individuals to puff up in pride. It is destructive to the individual, and the church.

But furthermore, note that what we read here is that this leaven was hidden in three measures of meal. What is meal? It is the edible part of any grain or pulse, ground to powder. And so what we have here is a picture of the damage done when the Bible, which is our spiritual food, is corrupted by the presence of sin, where it is mangled to *permit* sin. A little compromise here or there, leads to compromise elsewhere. We need to be on our guard, that we hold fast to what the Bible actually says. We need to be on guard that our hearts would not be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, as the book of Hebrews describes it. Let there never be any sin present in our lives that would cause God to remove His hand from this church, or any ministry within it.

And I urge you, don't be so foolish as to think that you are not susceptible to sin. For we all are. Paul, writing to the Corinthian church, speaking of how we should learn from the example of Israel in the wilderness, who, having been saved out of Egypt, then fell into sin in the desert, writes, saying:

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

You may be confident in where you stand with the Lord today, but you need to continue in your walk with Him. And for that you need His Word, you need relationship with Him through prayer, you need the encouragement and accountability of fellowship with other believers, and you need the ongoing reminder through communion of all Jesus has done for you, in dying in your place, for your sin.

Satan loves to trip Christians up. He loves to slow them down in their walk with the Lord. He loves to destroy ministries. He loves to destroy churches. But if we hold fast to God and His Word, he cannot. It's that simple. He is not that powerful. But he is dangerous when we drop our guard.

We read on:

Matthew 13:34-35

All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

And so, as Jesus taught in parables, He fulfilled what we read in Psalm 78, which says "*I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old*". And here in this moment, first to the multitude, and now to those in the house, He taught exclusively in parables, bringing to light things that had been hidden from creation; and that is things that reveal the mystery of the church.

Now, verse 36 is one we've read already, which says:

Matthew 13:36

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

And we've already studied what Jesus said as He explained this parable of His, in verses 37-43. And looking back at the parables we've already studied in this chapter, from the parable of the sower, to the parable of the wheat and tares, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the leaven, we see they give us a picture of those things Satan will try and do to destroy the church.

And in short that is he will try to harden people's hearts, and he will steal away thoughts they have toward the gospel, and he will do all he can to see that false converts and not genuine believers are produced. But furthermore, he'll plant false teachers within the church, drawing people away from Christ through false doctrine, and he'll seek to tie the church up in bureaucracy and unnecessary complications, as well as try and infect it with sin.

And given how we see those things happen in churches throughout this country and beyond, we might wonder what value there is in the church. But when we do so, we miss the great value that Christ puts on His bride, the one whom He gave His life for. So let us read the next parables that Jesus spoke as He sat here in the house with His disciples. We read in verse 44:

Matthew 13:44

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Now again, some get the cart before the horse with this parable, suggesting that the treasure we are to discover is Jesus, but we don't *hide* Jesus, nor do we contribute *anything* to our salvation. Rather, this parable speaks of the wonderful mystery that God loves *us*. In fact, He loves us so much that He sent His only Son, to die in our place, that we might have everlasting life. Forgiven and free!

You see, we read in 1 John 2, how that Jesus is the propitiation for not only *our* sin, but for the *whole world*, just as we read here in this parable that this man goes and buys the whole field. But the treasure He purchased it *for* is the church, it is those that come to Him in repentance and faith. And we find this purchase of our souls is echoed throughout the New Testament, such as we read in Acts chapter 20, speaking of the whole church:

Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He **purchased** with His own blood

Then in 1st Corinthians chapter 6, speaking of the individual:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a **price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Then again in Ephesians chapter 1:

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the **purchased** possession, to the praise of His glory.

We have indeed been bought at a price. A price so high that we could never have paid it ourselves. Jesus paid the ransom for our souls with His own blood.

Let this be a reminder of how, despite its deficiencies, the church is an unbelievably special, purchased possession, belonging to God, who sent His own son to pay for our salvation! That's the value God places on it. And so should we. And this thinking continues in the next parable. We read:

Matthew 13:45-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, there are those who get this the wrong way around, that suggest the pearl of great price is Christ — indeed there are even hymns written that speak of that — but the pearl here is the church.

And there is such symbolism in this. For pearls, which were never valued by the Jews, start with nothing more than an irritating grain of sand stuck in the shell of an oyster (a non-kosher animal), but the oyster then covers that grain of sand with a liquid that solidifies to the point it becomes precious and of great value. Likewise, as we are covered with the blood of Christ, we become beautiful, and of great value. And just like a pearl, so the church will be removed from its place and become an item of adornment.

Are you starting to get how much Jesus loves His bride? Are you considering what lengths He went to that she might be seen as Holy? When we do consider that, it should cause us to yearn for righteousness and purity in our lives. It should produce such thankfulness in our hearts! In times still to come, Jesus will return for His bride, the church, and take her to heaven to be with Him forever. But, as we'll now read, while He will separate those who love Him to everlasting life, those who have rejected Him He will hold accountable for their sin.

We read in verse 47 on:

Matthew 13:47-50

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

And so we see, that there will be a separation of those that *are* genuine believers, from those that merely *call* themselves Christians, but are not. This will be the ultimate separation of the true and false church. But that separation will not be through our doing (remember we are not to uproot the wheat with the tares), but through His. We read here that it will be God's angels that will *separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire*. And lest we be in any doubt as to the severity of this, Jesus also said *There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth*.

It is oh-so-clear here that there is both heaven and hell. And only your relationship to Christ will determine which one you spend eternity in. Not your works, not your qualifications or accomplishments, not your bank balance, or cumulative wealth. Only those who have come to Jesus in repentance and faith in what He has done, will be saved. Your need for a Saviour is the greatest need you will ever have. And your eternal life is too important a matter to take lightly.

Now, that brings us to the end of Jesus' parable, for now at least, but we will read more of them later in this gospel account. But having spoken *these* parables, we read next:

Matthew 13:51

Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Maybe you wish they'd said no... and we would have had 6 further studies in these parables alone. But the reality is, we have all we need in God's Word. It will not leave us short in any way. But if we want to understand it, we have to read it. We have to study it. We have to apply it. And indeed, we read next:

Matthew 13:52

Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

That is, when we carefully look at God's Word, as the scribes were to do, we should have great joy in reading all that we have read and understood before, but we should also be excited about the fresh insights that God will reveal to us through His Holy Spirit. But be careful, for there is no new truth that you will find beyond what has been there all along, for God's Word has not been limited in some way. But rather, what we should each do is to seek to understand God's Word better ourselves, knowing that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation, and that God's Word will never, never, contradict itself. We are, as Paul writes, to be diligent in our study of it. We read in 2 Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Matthew 13:53

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

That is, He departed from the region around Capernaum, where He had been based since teaching His sermon on the mount. And He now headed to His hometown of Nazareth. We read:

Matthew 13:54

When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Again, they didn't question that He *did* do these mighty works, but rather they questioned *how*. Saying...

Matthew 13:55-56

Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

And so they could only think in human terms, and they missed what God had done in sending Jesus to earth. They missed that the Messiah they were waiting for was actually standing here right in front of them. They made the mistake of thinking that at best He was a good human teacher. Just like so many do today. But as noted before, as CS Lewis so eloquently put it, the things Jesus said and did, did not leave that option open to us. He did not intend to.

As a side note, we read here that Jesus had 4 earthly brothers, and at least 3 earthly sisters — if there had only been 2, then they would have said are they not *both* with us, not are they *all* with us. And this should really settle any question regarding the Roman Catholic teaching that Mary is a perpetual virgin. She was and is not. Special? Yes. Highly favoured? Yes. But to be deified and on a par with God? Absolutely not. The Bible makes clear that is false teaching.

Matthew 13:57

So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country and in his own house."

So unwilling were these people to see the truth, that they didn't see the forest for the trees. And we read in this final verse:

Matthew 13:58

Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Was it that Jesus' power was somehow limited by their actions? No — for Jesus is the all-mighty God! But rather their unbelief kept them from bringing their sick to be healed. And in a similar way, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Conclusion

There is much that we should carefully consider from these parables, and this chapter. Not least of which is our response to the gospel, how we share the gospel, and how we should be wise to Satan's attempts to destroy the church. We should take note of what Peter wrote, saying:

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

But we must also, in the midst of the personal failure of some Christians, and the corporate failure of His church at times, we must not lose sight of the beauty of His church, for He considered it worth dying for! Not in some figurative sense. But literally so, for Jesus died in our place that we — and all other Christians with us — might be saved.

Now, as we go our separate ways, let me encourage you to dig even further into these parables, for there is so much more than we have time to dig into this morning. As you'll dig deeper, you'll start to see there are parallels between these 7 kingdom parables, and the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation, the 7 periods of church history, and the 7 churches written to by Paul. The Bible is full of treasure waiting to be discovered. But most importantly of all, it contains truth that needs to be applied...

Application questions

...so this week, ask yourself these questions in light of this chapter:

- Are you being vigilant, that you be not deceived?
- Are you taking heed, lest you fall?
- Are you valuing the church, as you ought?

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