

Of Wheat, Mustard, and Leaven



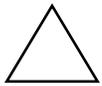
Read Your Bible – Matthew 13:24-46

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Do the exercises.

1. Who asked Jesus to explain the parable of the tares? _____
2. To explain how the kingdom of heaven grows and spreads, Jesus compared it to a _____ and _____.

Vocabulary Words



leaven (le' vən): a substance, such as yeast, that lightens and expands dough

tare (ter): a type of weed that when young looks like a young wheat plant

ANALYZE THE READING

Have you ever helped grow vegetables or flowers in a garden? It is usually more fun to eat produce than to pull up weeds. In today's lesson, Jesus tells a parable about **tares**. As He did with the parable of the sower, Jesus told the parable of the tares to a large crowd of people. However, He explained the parable only to the disciples; He was especially interested in nurturing their understanding of the truth.

In this parable, a man sows a field with wheat. At night, the man's enemy secretly sows weeds in the wheat field. When the wheat sprouts and begins to grow, the weeds show up also. The farmer's servants ask if they should pull the weeds, but the farmer says they should leave them

for now. At the harvest time, he says, they should pull the weeds first and then harvest the wheat.

This parable provides us with another picture of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told the disciples that He is the farmer who sows the good seed, the wheat. The field is the world. The wheat is the people of God, and the tares are those who follow Satan. He is the enemy who sows the bad seed. Notice that Satan plants the weeds during the night—he always does his work in darkness.

The farmer told the workers not to pull the weeds while the plants were still growing, because doing so would damage the crop. Instead, the separation of weeds from wheat should occur when the harvest is ready. Jesus explained to His

Lesson 6

disciples what this means: God will do the work of separating good from evil when Jesus comes again at the end of the world. God's children are not to try to judge or punish the ungodly. That is God's job. Because He knows people's hearts, He is the only perfect Judge.

Jesus told two other parables about the kingdom of heaven. He compared it to a seed and to leaven. First, He said the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which is tiny. However, a full grown mustard plant may become quite large. Birds can even nest in its branches.

Jesus also compared the kingdom of heaven to leaven. When a woman puts a little bit of leaven into a lump of dough, the whole lump becomes leavened. These parables have similar meanings. They reveal that the kingdom of heaven at first would seem small, even unimportant. However, just as the mustard seed grows

and leaven expands, so the kingdom of God spreads and affects many people.

The last two parables in today's Scripture reading highlight the supreme value of the kingdom of heaven. In each parable a man finds a treasure of great worth and gives up all he possesses in order to buy that treasure. In the same way we value the kingdom of heaven above all the riches of the world. We joyfully give up everything to become a part of that kingdom.

The stories Jesus told teach us these principles:

- The kingdom of heaven is Jesus' kingdom; He is its King and Ruler.
- We must listen to His Word and bear fruit.
- We must not listen to Satan because he is evil.
- Those outside God's kingdom will be cast away when God judges mankind.
- God's kingdom spreads, affecting many people.

TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

Match each part of the parable with its meaning.

3. _____ the farmer who sowed good seed
4. _____ wheat
5. _____ tares
6. _____ the enemy who planted weeds
7. _____ field
8. _____ the harvest

- A. Satan
- B. the end of the world
- C. the people of God
- D. the world
- E. Jesus
- F. followers of Satan

Answer the questions.

9. The separation of the wheat and the weeds.
 - A. During what process would the wheat and weeds be separated? _____
 - B. What explanation did Jesus give for this part of the parable? _____

 - C. Why will it be God who judges the ungodly? _____

10. How are the parables of the mustard seed and leaven good pictures of the kingdom of heaven? Though seemingly _____ at first, the kingdom of heaven grows and affects _____ people.

FOLLOWING CHRIST

Complete the exercise.

11. Circle four letters of principles about the kingdom of heaven as taught in parables.
- A. We must listen to Jesus and bear fruit.
 - B. Those who are not part of God's kingdom will be cast away.
 - C. Only the people of the kingdom will be judged by God.
 - D. The kingdom of heaven spreads, reaching and affecting many people.
 - E. Satan is evil; we must not listen to him.

BIBLE MEMORY

Complete the verse.

12. "Again, the _____ of heaven is like unto _____ hid in a _____; the which when a man hath _____, he _____, and for _____ thereof goeth and _____ all that he hath, and _____ that field." Matthew 13:44

THINK IT THROUGH

- △ 13. Think about the parables of the sower, the wheat and tares, the leaven, and the mustard seed. What is one lesson from these stories that impresses you most?
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REVIEW

Complete the sentences.

14. The seed represents the _____ in the parable of the sower.
15. Jesus used _____ to teach truths about God's kingdom.

Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false. Correct any false statements.

16. **T** **F** When Jesus said "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," He meant everyone should *stand near enough to catch every word He said.*
17. **T** **F** Sinners can see *God's light* as they observe Christians who live in the light of the Gospel.

Lesson 6

Complete the explanation of the parable of the sower.

Type of Soil	Represents a Person's Heart Who Hears the Word . . .
18. Pathway	<hr/> <hr/>
19. Rocky	<hr/> <hr/>
20. Full of Thorns	<hr/> <hr/>
21. Good Soil	<hr/> <hr/>

What Kind of Man Is This?

**Read Your Bible** – Luke 8:22-39

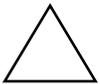
Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Answer the questions.

1. What aspect of the calming of the storm do you think most astonished the disciples?

2. How had the people of Gadara tried to keep the man with demons under control?

Vocabulary Word

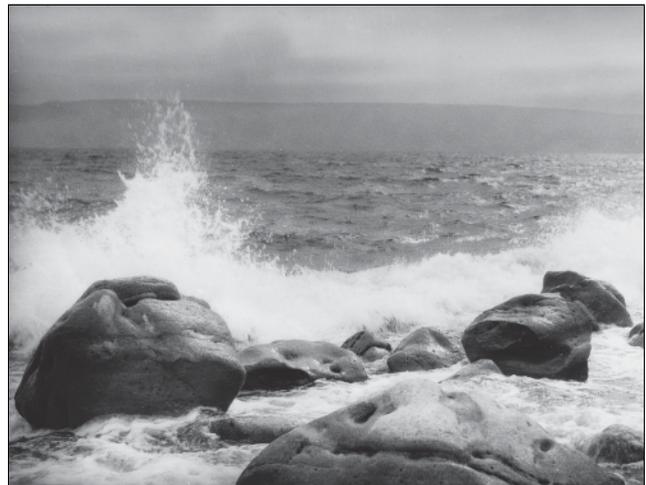


legion (lē' jən): (adj) very great in number

ANALYZE THE READING

The disciples had come to understand Jesus had great power to heal diseases. They were not, however, prepared for what they witnessed on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus and His men were sailing across the sea, and Jesus fell asleep. As often happens on the Sea of Galilee, a sudden storm arose. High waves crashed over the boat, filling it with water. The disciples were gripped with fear. “Master,” they cried out to Jesus, “we are going to die!”

Jesus calmly spoke to the wind and the sea, commanding them to be still. Immediately, the storm subsided. Now the disciples were overcome with a new fear, for they could hardly believe what they had just witnessed. *What kind of*



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The Sea of Galilee

Storms on the Sea

Storms arise suddenly on the Sea of Galilee. There are a number of reasons this beautiful sea is prone to bad storms. For one thing, it is relatively shallow, having a maximum depth of 200 feet (61 m). Lake Erie, one of the Great Lakes, which is the same depth, is also well-known for its violent waves stirred up by west winds.

The landscape of Galilee also contributes to sudden storms on the sea. The Sea of Galilee lies 680 feet (207 m) below sea level. On the east side are hills of about 2,000 feet (610 m). In these hills, the air is cooler and drier than the land around the other sides of the sea, where the climate is semi-tropical with warm, moist air. These facts cause considerable difference in air pressure, which in turn causes air to move from high pressure areas to low pressure areas. The greater the difference in pressure, the stronger the winds are. As these winds funnel through the hills, they cause great tempests on the sea.

man is this? they puzzled. Even the wind and waves obey Him!

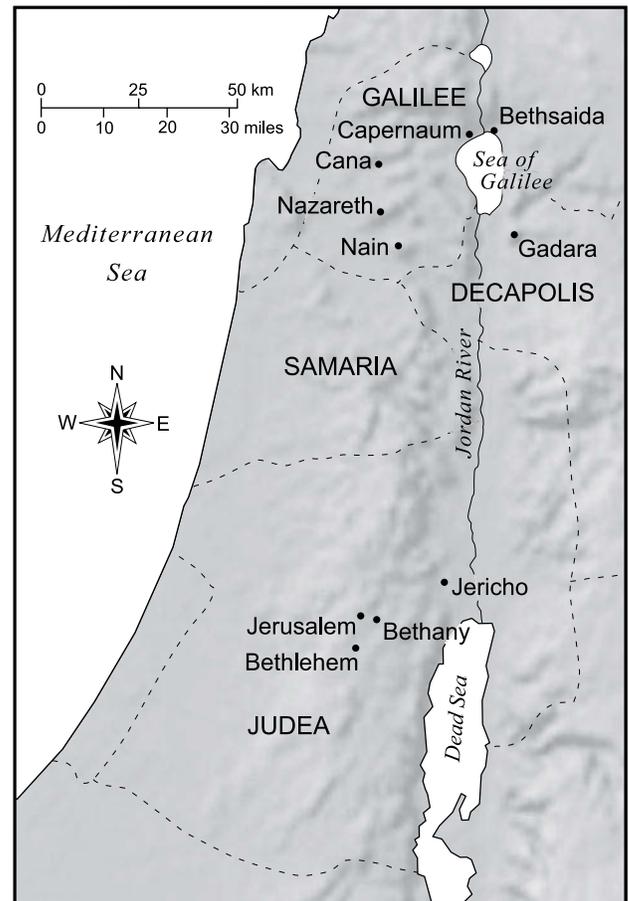
The disciples gradually came to the full awareness that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. With each miracle, their comprehension increased. However, it was not until after His resurrection that they completely understood that Jesus Christ was the God-man. Only as the Holy Spirit taught them, did they comprehend that Jesus was fully God and fully man.

After the storm, Jesus and the disciples arrived in the country of Gadara (gəd' ə rə) southeast of the Sea of Galilee in the region called Decapolis (di kə' pə lis). Most of the people of Gadara were

Gentiles. Perhaps Jesus' next miracle was performed for a Gentile instead of a Jew.

Once Jesus was ashore, He met a man who was controlled by terrible demons. Mark's gospel describes this troubled man in greater detail than Luke does. He lived as an outcast from human company, dwelling in a cemetery. People had tried to control him by binding him with chains, but the demons' power broke the chains. In his torment, the man screamed day and night and cut his body with sharp stones.

Jesus felt compassion for the man. He commanded the demons, who called themselves **Legion**, to come out of the man. The demons, or evil spirits, recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They asked Jesus that He not torment them or command them to go into the deep. This appears to be a reference to hell; the demons seemed to



understand that someday God would punish them with torment there.

They begged Jesus to send them into a herd of two thousand swine, which was feeding on a hillside nearby. Jesus commanded them to leave the man and allowed them to go into the pigs. The demons had to obey Jesus because they were subject to Him. When the demons entered the pigs, the animals rushed down a cliff and plunged into the Sea of Galilee, where the pigs drowned.

The men in charge of the pigs ran away and told everyone in Gadara what had happened. The people came to see the healed man. Knowing

how impossible this man's condition had been, the people were afraid. What kind of power did this man Jesus possess? How could any man command a legion of demons?

The healed man sat at Jesus' feet, demonstrating his gratitude and submission to the Master. The people were so afraid of what had happened, they asked Jesus to leave the area. As Jesus departed, the healed man ran after Him and begged to go along. However, Jesus told the man to go home and tell everyone what God had done for him. And the man did just that—telling everyone he met of the mighty things Jesus had done for him!

NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Check the phrases that complete the sentence correctly.

3. While he was controlled by demons, the man . . .
- _____ lived in a cemetery.
 - _____ screamed day and night.
 - _____ ran away when he saw Jesus.
 - _____ cut himself with sharp stones.
 - _____ broke his chains.
 - _____ sat at Jesus' feet.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Number the events of the lesson in the order they occurred.

4. _____ Jesus and His disciples entered the land of Gadara.
- _____ Jesus calmed the storm.
- _____ Jesus allowed the demons to enter the swine.
- _____ Jesus slept as He crossed the Sea of Galilee with His disciples.
- _____ A man under the control of demons met Jesus.
- _____ A sudden storm came up.
- _____ The swine rushed into the sea and drowned.

Answer the question.

5. Whom did the demons recognize Jesus to be? _____

FOLLOWING CHRIST

6. A. Where did the people of Gadara find the man who had been delivered of demons after he was healed? _____
- B. What two things did this posture show? _____
7. What may have been unique about Jesus healing a man from Gadara?

8. What did the Gadarenes' fear cause them to do?

9. Why did the demons have to obey Jesus? _____

BIBLE MEMORY

Write the memory verse, including its reference.

10. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

THINK IT THROUGH

- △ 11. Think about Jesus being asleep on the boat during the storm.
- A. What did this show about Jesus?

- B. How can thinking about this story comfort you during troubling situations?

- _____

REVIEW

Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false. Correct any false statements.

12. **T** **F** Jesus used parables to *hide the truth* from those who would reject it.
13. **T** **F** The *parables of the leaven and the mustard seed* show how the kingdom of heaven begins small and grows.

Answer the questions with the truths Jesus taught in parables.

- 14. A. To whom must we listen? _____
B. We must not only listen. What else must we do? _____
- 15. What will happen to those who are not part of God's kingdom? _____

- 16. What happens as God's kingdom spreads? _____

Answer the questions from the parable of the tares.

- 17. The farmer represents _____ .
- 18. The enemy is a picture of _____ .
- 19. The harvest is _____ .
- 20. The wheat stands for _____ .
- 21. When will God separate good and evil people? _____
- 22. Why is God the best judge of people? _____

Help for the Hopeless

Read Your Bible – *Luke 8:40-56*

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Bible Vocabulary

virtue (vər' chü): miraculous power

Answer the questions.

1. How did Jesus respond when the word came that Jairus's daughter had died?

2. How did Jairus and his wife react to their daughter being raised to life?

ANALYZE THE READING

Are you about twelve years of age? This was the age of the only daughter of Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue. She became ill and her father became alarmed. What would your parents do if you became deathly sick? Her father decided to find Jesus who was in Capernaum not far away. (After he had departed from Gadara, Jesus again crossed the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum where the people welcomed Him.) There Jairus found Him, fell at His feet, and begged Him to help his daughter.

Jesus walked along with Jairus, making His way to the anxious father's home. As they went, a woman came up behind Jesus and reached out her hand. This woman had been ill for twelve years. She had nearly lost hope of ever being well. The poor woman had spent all of her money on doctors, but they could not heal her. As Jesus

Synagogue Rulers

Three synagogue rulers are mentioned in the New Testament. Besides Jairus, Crispus (Acts 18:8) and Sosthenes (Acts 18:17) are named. The ruler of the synagogue was an elder; he sat in a seat reserved for important people.

A synagogue ruler was also called the president of the synagogue. These rulers were in charge of the reading of the Scriptures during synagogue services. They chose the leader of each service and kept order, making sure people did not become unruly or act in an inappropriate way. In addition, the ruler was responsible for maintaining and repairing the building. He even looked after the cleaning of the synagogue.

passed by, she reached out and brushed her hand along the hem of His cloak. Immediately, her sickness was gone!

Jesus asked who had touched Him because He wanted to give the woman a chance to tell those present what had happened to her. Realizing that she had been discovered, the woman fell before Jesus and proclaimed His power to all the people.

Jesus told the woman it was her faith that allowed her to be healed. The Lord explained this to several people whom He healed. He wanted them to know that God heals people in response to their faith. There was nothing “magic” about the healings Jesus performed.

Jesus and Jairus continued toward the synagogue leader’s house. Before they arrived, someone from Jairus’s house met them and said his daughter had already died. Jesus turned to Jairus and told him that if he would only believe, his

daughter would be made well. Jairus had just witnessed the miraculous healing of a woman who merely touched Jesus’ coat, and he did believe. Matthew’s gospel tells us that Jairus proclaimed, “If you just come and lay your hand on her, she will live!”

Jesus took only the girl’s parents and Peter, James, and John with Him into the room where the young girl’s body lay. He told those who were mourning in the house to stop weeping because the girl was not dead, but they laughed at Him, knowing she had indeed died. At the bedside, Jesus simply took the girl’s hand and told her to get up. And she did!

Once again, Jesus proved that He truly was the Son of God by raising someone from the dead. Only God has authority over death. Jesus has authority over death, over all kinds of illness, over the evil spirits, and over all of nature!

NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Answer this question.

3. Who was Jairus? _____

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Complete the following exercises.

4. Contrast the way the people of Capernaum responded to Jesus with the way the people of Gadara responded in Lesson 7.



5. Reread verse 46. How was the sick woman’s touch of Jesus’ garment different from the touch of the multitude?

6. Why was the woman healed? _____

7. What did Jairus need in order to see his daughter made whole? _____

Lesson 8

- 8. How do we know the mourners did not understand who Jesus was? _____

- 9. What did Jesus do to bring Jairus's daughter back to life? _____

- 10. A. What did Jesus prove by raising the girl? _____
B. Why were His actions proof of this? _____

BIBLE MEMORY

Answer the following questions about the memory verse.

- 11. To what does Jesus compare His kingdom in this verse? _____
- 12. What does a person feel when he obtains this? _____

Write the memory verse, including its reference.

- 13. _____

THINK IT THROUGH

❶ Later in His ministry, Jesus referred to another dead person as “sleeping.” Why might Jesus have referred to a person as “sleeping” when He knew that person was dead? To Jesus, who sees our whole life and not just the earthly part of it, death must look like only a sleep. Even though Lazarus’s body had begun to decay, Jesus had the power to reverse that process!

Complete the following exercises using John 11:11, 43, 44.

- 14. A. Whom did Jesus refer to as sleeping? _____
B. What did Jesus do for him in John 11:43, 44? _____
C. Jesus could _____ a person from the _____ just as easily as He could wake a person from _____ .

REVIEW

Cross out one wrong ending for each sentence.

15. In the parable of the wheat and tares ____ .
 - A. the farmer sowed good seed; the enemy sowed weeds
 - B. the tares were ungodly people
 - C. the servants pulled up the tares before harvest
 - D. the wheat and weeds were separated at time of harvest

16. In the boat on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples, Jesus ____ .
 - A. fell asleep
 - B. rebuked the disciples for waking Him
 - C. calmed the storm
 - D. displayed His special power over nature

17. The demons of Gadara ____ .
 - A. recognized Jesus as the Son of God
 - B. entered a herd of swine
 - C. had to obey Jesus
 - D. fled as soon as they saw Jesus

18. The demons caused the man of Gadara to ____ .
 - A. scream day and night
 - B. sit quietly at Jesus' feet
 - C. cut himself
 - D. break his chains