

Opening Scripture: *Matthew 13:24-30 (KJV)*

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way..."

The sermon begins with a heartfelt prayer of gratitude, inviting God's presence to guide the message. The speaker emphasizes that the greatest prayer anyone can pray is to be filled with God's love and to love Him deeply.

Revisiting the parable from *Matthew 13*, Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as a man who sowed **good seed** in his field. However, while men **slept**, the **enemy** came and sowed **tares** among the wheat. Both the wheat and tares grew together until the **harvest**, when the tares were gathered and burned, and the wheat was collected into the barn.

The speaker highlights how wheat and tares initially look identical, making it difficult to distinguish between them. However, as they mature, key differences emerge:

- The **wheat** develops **golden, heavy seeds** that cause it to **bow**, symbolizing humility and fruitfulness.
- The **tares** produce **black, lighter seeds**, causing them to **stand upright**.

This physical distinction becomes clear at harvest time, making it easier to separate the two. The Lord allows both to grow together, knowing the right time for separation. This underscores the message that **by their fruits, we will know them**.

Shifting focus, the sermon delves into the **fall of man** as described in *Genesis 2-3*. Man was created for **God's pleasure**, but through disobedience, he lost his esteemed position. The serpent's subtle deception led Eve to question God's command, ultimately leading her to eat the forbidden fruit.

The serpent approached Eve with misleading questions, subtly shifting her focus. Eve even added to God's command, saying they should not **touch** the tree, suggesting that she and Adam had discussed God's instructions in detail. This deception led Eve to engage her mind and emotions, stepping out of alignment with her spirit.

Referencing *James 1:13-15*, the speaker explains the **progression of temptation**:

- Being drawn away by **lust**

- Becoming **enticed**
- When lust conceives, it brings forth **sin**
- Sin ultimately leads to **death**

Eve saw the fruit as **good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and desirable for wisdom**. She ate and gave it to Adam, resulting in their **spiritual death**.

The speaker describes man as a **tripartite being** consisting of **body, soul, and spirit**. God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into him, giving him a spirit. The **soul** represents the man himself, finding expression through the body and remaining connected to the spirit. However, the fall caused the **spirit** of man to die, breaking his fellowship with God. This spiritual death becomes evident when Adam and Eve **hide** from God's presence, expressing fear and an awareness of their **nakedness**.

Despite their disobedience, God's **mercy** shines through. He covers Adam and Eve with **coats of skins**, symbolizing the first **blood sacrifice** and pointing to the necessity of **shedding blood** for the remission of sins (*Hebrews 9:22*). This act becomes a **standard**, showing that forgiveness and covering come through **sacrifice**.

God's **judgment** on the serpent includes a promise that the **seed of the woman** will **bruise** the serpent's head. This indicates that, although the woman was deceived, her offspring will bring **deliverance**. The speaker emphasizes that God's purpose will stand despite man's failure, referencing

Isaiah

46:9-10:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."

The sermon briefly touches on the story of **Cain and Abel**, illustrating how **sin** continued to affect humanity. Adam and Eve likely taught their children about the **importance of sacrifice** and God's provision. However, the **adversary's influence** persisted, leading to further **corruption**.

In conclusion, the sermon reinforces that **God's purpose will always prevail**. Despite the fall, God's **plan for redemption** through Jesus Christ was set in motion. The speaker encourages believers to recognize God's **sovereignty** in all circumstances, trusting that **His counsel will stand** and His plans will be **fulfilled**.