

## **Sermon Summary: The Parable of the Tares 1 – Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sis Bukky Agboola**

### **Opening Scripture:** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The speaker begins by acknowledging that this sermon will lay a foundation for deeper exploration in the following week. Though not diving fully into the intended message, the focus today is on understanding the groundwork laid by Jesus in the *Parable of the Tares*.

The speaker shares a personal burden that has weighed heavily for over a year and a half. Observing the body of Christ, there's a visible disconnect: the quality of fruit produced in believers' lives does not align with the good seed that has been sown. This inconsistency leads to persistent questions: *Why is there spiritual fluctuation? Why does the fruit not reflect the Word of God sown into hearts?*

In response to this inner turmoil, the Lord directed the speaker to the *Parable of the Tares* in Matthew 13. This parable became the key to understanding the perplexing disparity between seed and fruit.

**The Parable:** Jesus describes a man sowing good seed in his field, but while men slept, an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. As both grew together, the servants questioned why tares appeared if good seed was sown. The master responded, "An enemy hath done this." However, he instructs the servants to let both the wheat and tares grow until harvest, when the separation will occur: the tares will be burned, and the wheat gathered into the barn.

This response from Jesus struck the speaker deeply. God is not anxious about the presence of tares because His purpose will be fulfilled. This realization brought peace: *If God isn't worried, why should we be?* However, it also triggered self-reflection—*Am I wheat or tare?* This is the question each believer must confront.

### **Jesus' Explanation of the Parable (Matthew 13:36-43):**

- The sower of good seed is the Son of Man.
- The field is the world.
- The good seeds are the children of the Kingdom.
- The tares are the children of the wicked one.
- The enemy who sowed them is the devil.
- The harvest is the end of the world.
- The reapers are the angels.

At the end of the age, the Son of Man will send His angels to gather the tares for burning, while the righteous (the wheat) will shine forth in the Kingdom of their Father. Jesus ends this

explanation with a call: “*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*” This, the speaker emphasizes, is a solemn reminder not to take this message lightly.

**Understanding the Kingdom:** The Kingdom of Heaven began after Jesus' resurrection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Despite having everything necessary for spiritual growth, not all believers will flourish. Two groups emerge:

1. Those who embrace and profit from God's grace.
2. Those who, despite having access, fail to engage fully with what has been given.

To bring forth the fruit required by God, believers must not take His grace in vain. If our lives produce fruit inconsistent with the grace we've received, we risk falling into the category of tares.

**The Importance of Knowing God:** The Lord revealed that believers must intentionally seek Him. This isn't about routine devotions or church attendance. It's about a heart that earnestly desires to *know* God, allowing His Word to shape every aspect of life. Reading the Bible isn't enough; we must practice what we read. Obedience is proof of true understanding.

The speaker highlights the danger of being overwhelmed by the world system, which keeps believers so busy that they lose focus on their spiritual walk. This busyness leads to exhaustion and distraction, making it easy to drift spiritually. The call is clear: *Pause, be intentional, and seek the Lord deeply.*

### **Practical Application:**

- **Examine Your Fruit:** Does the fruit of your life align with the Word sown in your heart? If not, ask God for clarity and correction.
- **Intentional Obedience:** Move beyond surface-level engagement with the Word. Be deliberate in applying God's truth to your daily life.
- **Patience in the Journey:** Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us to run the race with patience, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. This journey requires endurance, especially when facing the cross and shame associated with living for Christ.

**Final Encouragement:** God loves His people deeply and desires that none fall into the category of tares. The journey ahead requires intentionality, trust, and obedience. As believers seek to know God more intimately, they will be equipped to fulfill their divine purpose and shine forth as wheat in His Kingdom.

The sermon concludes with a reminder that though challenges lie ahead, God is preparing His people for victory. The glory set before us far outweighs the temporary trials, and if we keep our focus on Jesus, we will navigate this journey confidently and without fear.

**Key Scripture to Meditate On:** *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* – Hebrews 12:2