



THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Seven Factors Affecting Believers' Growth and Maturity (Part 2)

Session Number: 19 | Week: 3 | Day: 5

Bible Passage

Matthew 13:31-58

Introduction

In Matthew 13:31-58, we explore how, in this Kingdom age or church age, believers can grow together (coexist) with weeds—such as lies, untruths, falsehoods, hearsay, cultic practices, and occultic practices within the church. We recognise that these weeds, along with counterfeit elements, creep in while we sleep spiritually and cannot be uprooted until Jesus returns. These counterfeit practices hinder the church's call to productivity a hundredfold.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, you will have:

- Understood how good and light can live victoriously above evil and darkness by listing practical truths and principles from the parables.
- Listed the truths about how good and evil coexist today (in the church, in the office, in the marketplace, in the family) until the end of the church age and how to keep existing evil in check today, comparing it with how sheep live among wolves victoriously.
- Been warned that familiar people with the source and resources of truth might not benefit, with examples from the family of Jesus and the people of His hometown.

Session Outline

- **Principles of overcoming evil** in this age and the age to come.
- **The kingdom of lies, counterfeits, hearsay, etc.**
- **Jesus's indoor and outdoor meetings** (Matthew 13:1, Matthew 13:36).
- **The process of progressively opening the eyes of understanding.**

Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.

- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

Comprehending

What do the verses mean?

(In small groups, attempt the following questions):

- What is evil? How do we keep the evil nested in our house in check?
- Read Matthew 13:2, Matthew 13:19, Matthew 13:32. What do the birds of the air represent in these verses? What is revealed about birds of the air abiding in the Kingdom of God? How should we engage them? (Matthew 13:31-32)
- Read Matthew 13:33. Yeast represents evil, lies, sin, and corruption in the Church and fellowship. What does this verse reveal about yeast in the Kingdom or Church of God?
- Read Matthew 13:36-43. What is the meaning of the parable of the wheat and tares? List three truths about how good and evil coexist today (in the church, office, marketplace, and family) until the end of the church age. How do we keep evil in check today? How do sheep live among wolves victoriously?
- Read Matthew 13:44-52. List five lessons you have learned about how good, valuable disciples (bought at a price by Jesus) live together with evil people and their agents until Jesus comes again.
- In Matthew 13:52, how do disciples of Jesus seek out the new gem of truth from the old falsehood in our storeroom?
- Read Matthew 13:53-58. Why did Jesus's family and hometown people benefit least from Him? List five truths revealed about people familiar with you—hometown and family members—within Kingdom living.

Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
 - **Sin** to confess
 - **Promise** to claim
 - **Attitude** to change
 - **Command** to keep

- **Error** to change
- **Prayer** to make
- **Example** to copy
- **Truth** to obey and
- **Something** praiseworthy

Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.