

4Ws · UNCOVER

BE GENUINE, NOT FAKE

JULY 23, 2023

WORSHIP

Let the Praises Ring,
Your Love Awakens,
At Your Name, Living
Hope, Build My Life

WELCOME

Have you made a mistake of purchasing a fake item or trusting someone with a fake identity or intention? Or do you know of someone who did? How did it make you feel?

WORD

MATTHEW 13:24-30

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸ And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves *said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹ But he *said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

(READ THE REST OF
MATTHEW 13)

What enters your mind when you hear the word “fake”? No one wants to be deceived nor invest money or their lives in something fake. We want genuine friends, genuine relationships. Jesus gave us truths to warn us about the worse kind of deception--about the kingdom of heaven. We discovered four kinds of soil reflecting four kinds of hearts in the Parable of the Sower--not everybody will respond positively to the Word of God.

The **Parable of the Tares and Wheat** teaches us that true and fake believers will coexist. The **Parable of the Mustard Seed** follows and illustrates that when truth is received well, it will transform our lives. The **Parable of the Leaven** bears the same idea that the gospel has an amazing power that will affect our lives like leaven does to dough. The **Parable of the Hidden Treasure** shows that once a believer finds the Truth, his values, motivations, and entire life will change. This concept is echoed by the **Parable of the Pearl** – when somebody finds this great pearl, one sells everything else to acquire it. Understanding the gospel allows a person to give up everything for the sake of God’s plan and will. The last parable is the **Parable of the Dragnet** – showing us that at the end of time, there will be a separation between genuine followers of Jesus, and those who are fake followers; their destinies will be very different.

Jesus only explains two of the 7 parables to His disciples – and the next one He explains is that of the Tares and Wheat.

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES AND WHEAT (Matthew 13:24-30)

The seed is God’s Word; the field is the world; the wheat stands for the true followers of Jesus, and the tares are fake believers, sowed by the enemy (Satan). Their difference becomes evident only when both have grown. Although they look alike, the difference will show when the wheat bears grains – its stalks bow down while the tares would stay as they were (explained in **vv.36-43**). Jesus is telling us that it is NOT our job to pinpoint who are genuine and who are fake believers, it’s God who will make the distinction. Don’t be preoccupied in judging who are real or fake followers of Jesus. We are also shown the reality of hell. It is an unpleasant place, where there will be **“weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v.42)** – describing extraordinary weeping and wailing because of regrets, a sign of helplessness and hopelessness. Entering the kingdom of Heaven is one gift given to us out of God’s graciousness.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 illustrates how false teachers, false gospels, and other seemingly harmless “truths” are lies sowed by the master deceiver, Satan. You got to know the Bible to distinguish truth from what is fake! When we fall into the trap of counterfeit teachings, it will harm us in the long run. Out of grace and mercy, Jesus commands not to force “tares” or “fake followers” out. Be patient, at the end of the age, He will be the One to take care of the separation. Examine not the faith of others, but our own faith (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). Are we genuine or are we fake?

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THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE LEAVEN (Matthew 13:31-34)

These parables explain what will happen when genuine followers hear and obey the truth by faith. The main imagery is that of transformation – there must be an evident change in the life of a genuine believer who has submitted his life to the Lord. Genuine Christians are born again of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23)– when you put your faith in His Word, there will be growth that's evident. Leaven permeates the dough which expands and grows. The evidence of a true, genuine follower of Jesus is the fruit – the power of transformation and growth of character – we become more and more like Christ. It also includes the power of influence, enabling us to draw others closer to Jesus. True followers will see changes in their lives.

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE COSTLY PEARL (Matthew 13:44-46)

These stories are of people who understand the gospel—their hearts, minds, values, and perspectives changed. Radical transformation from the inside out only happens when you discover the Truth which goes back to Jesus Himself. There's a trade-off – you exchange something for something much better. The Apostle Paul counts **all things** as “loss” or “rubbish” compared to the “surpassing value” of knowing Jesus as his Lord (Philippians 3:8). Genuine followers of Jesus understand the value of the gospel. Salvation is FREE, but not CHEAP. To have Jesus, we also need to have a radical decision – the willingness to surrender all to follow Jesus. It should cost us everything! Salvation is by grace, not bought by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). You only achieve it by faith shown through your transformed life (James 2:17, Jude 4).

THE PARABLE OF THE DRAGNET (Matthew 13:47-50)

Jesus re-emphasizes that God will separate between true and genuine believers, and those who are fake and living lives that are not surrendered to Him. There is no exception – that day will come. The imagery of hell in the parable of tares and wheat is repeated in this last parable. Jesus showed how serious this is – we must make sure we are true followers of Jesus! Heaven and Hell are eternal realities. It shows the importance of the lessons Jesus presented in these parables. Another story (Luke 16:19-31) tells us of the reality and finality of these two destinations. Are you a genuine Christian? Are there evidences? Is there growth and transformation? What about your heart? Is your heart, your passion, and your values/priorities transformed? We should have the willingness to follow and surrender all to Him (Luke 9:25-26). We must examine ourselves – are we genuine or fake? May we find ourselves in God's truth and light every waking moment of our lives!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Self-Check.**
What are the evidences that you are a genuine Christian?
- 2. Setting It Right.**
What are some lasting changes that's ongoing in your life right now? What are things you need to work on more?
- 3. Living It Out.**
How can you show to others that Jesus is your highest priority?

WORKS PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that Jesus Christ reigns in the heart of everyone who seeks Him, that they will become genuine followers of Christ. Do not have a judgmental attitude towards other people but show grace to everyone through your words and actions. Know the gospel and be ready to share whenever an opportunity comes.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

- I. Thanksgiving**
Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives
- II. Country and the World**
Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines and Canada
Repentance and Salvation
- III. Church**
That CCFE Members would honor and love God and make disciples. Pray for Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families Ministries and Churches worldwide
- IV. CCFE Facilities**
Worship and Training Center
- V. Personal Concerns**
Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 7:20-21

²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”