

## Let's Talk In Parables

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### Sleeper Cells

Matthew 13:24-30

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***Sleeper Cell***- a terrorist cell whose members work under cover in an area until sent into action by an enemy.

**I. IN THE CURRENT KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, THE CHURCH MUST BE AWARE THAT SATAN HAS PLANTED SLEEPER CELLS AROUND AND AMONG US.**

A. There is a mystery to the kingdom of Heaven.

1. What was once a mystery to the saints and prophets of the Old Testament and is now being revealed clearly for the first time is a period that would exist between Christ's first coming and His second coming, which is the mediatorial or the present earthly kingdom.

B. During this Mediatorial Kingdom Christ is scattering the children of God among the world to glorify God on earth and to gather others into His eternal kingdom.

1. The role of the children of God during this age is to be planted throughout the world.
2. "The church is to gather together for worship, for instruction, and for mutual fellowship, but then it is to go out." ~Ray C. Stedman~

C. In contrast to Jesus sending us out during this Mediatorial Kingdom, Jesus says the children of the evil one will also be scattered but they will be disguised as the church.

1. Everything that God does, Satan plants imitators who try to destroy it.

D. We can always identify the true children of God from the imitators by the fruit they bear.

1. True believers produce good spiritual fruit, imitators can only produce the appearance of good fruit.
2. A person can change their appearance, but a nature change only comes from the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believer's.

**II. THE JOB OF THE CHURCH IS NOT TO EXPEL THE IMITATORS FROM THE WORLD, RATHER WE ARE TO DISCERN THEM AND BE ON GUARD.**

- A. Imitators will always be among us, if we focus all our time trying to purify the world of them, we will become distracted from our true mission.
- B. The work of the Kingdom of God cannot be choked out by the work of Satan.
  - 1. Jesus doesn't have to eliminate opposition to win. We will turn the world upside down, grow and prosper despite Satan's opposition.
- C. Only God can infallibly distinguish between true believers and false ones.

**III. WHILE THE WICKED AND RIGHTEOUS CAN'T BE SEPARATED TODAY, THE TIME IS COMING WHEN WE WILL BE SEPARATED AND THE WICKED WILL BE DESTROYED.**

- A. Jesus is going to let the wicked and the righteous co-exist until the end of the age when He will finally and eternally separate us.
- B. There is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner gets saved, not when a sinner perishes.

**There is a fight for the souls of people. People are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd and so Jesus has sent us out to set them free by the proclamation of the Good News. Will you go?**

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April 30, 2017

**Bible Study Questions**

1. Matthew 9:35-38. Discuss the importance of evangelism considering the text.
2. Assess your current efforts at reaching the world for Christ. How can you improve? What holds you back?
3. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Jesus said let the weeds grow with the wheat. Paul says purge the evil from among you. Discuss the difference.
4. What is the difference between separation in the message verse church discipline?