

Matthew 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit,
then appeared the tares also.

Analysis

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also (ὅτε δὲ ἐβλάστησεν ὁ χόρτος καὶ καρπὸν ἐποίησεν, τότε ἐφάνη καὶ τὰ ζιζάνια)—*phanerōthē* means 'became visible, revealed.' Darnel looks identical to wheat during early growth; only when grain heads emerge does the difference become obvious. Wheat produces edible seed; darnel produces toxic seed. Similarly, false believers appear genuine until pressure, testing, or time reveals true character.

The fruit-bearing stage exposes reality. Profession without fruit evidences false faith (Matthew 7:16-20). This timing—appearing **then** (τότε), not earlier—explains why church discipline addresses manifest sin rather than suspected hypocrisy. We can't identify tares during 'blade' stage; we must wait for 'fruit' to reveal true nature. Patient discernment, not hasty judgment, characterizes wise leadership.

Historical Context

Bearded darnel's resemblance to wheat during vegetative growth was notorious—ancient agricultural writers (Pliny, Columella) documented this problem. Only when seed heads formed could farmers distinguish crops from weeds. This parable addresses Matthew's church community struggling with false teachers who initially seemed orthodox but eventually revealed heresy through their 'fruit' (behavior and doctrine).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'fruit' distinguishes genuine believers from tares—what evidence reveals true spiritual life?
2. How does this parable inform church discipline—when should leaders address suspected false profession?
3. Where might you be impatient to 'root up tares' before their true nature becomes evident through fruit?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε δὲ ἐβλάστησεν ὁ χόρτος καὶ καρπὸν ἐποίησεν
when But was sprung up the blade also fruit brought forth
G3753 G1161 G985 G3588 G5528 G2532 G2590 G4160

τότε ἐφάνη καὶ τὰ ζιζάνια
then appeared also the tares
G5119 G5316 G2532 G3588 G2215

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org