

Matthew 13:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Analysis

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? (Κύριε, οὐχὶ καλὸν σπέρμα ἔσπειρας)—the servants' question reveals perplexity: if the master sowed pure seed, why tares? They understand the sowing was good; the problem arose afterward. **From whence then hath it tares?** (πόθεν οὖν ἔχει ζιζάνια;)—pothern asks 'from what source?' They seek explanation for evil's presence.

This represents the problem of evil in God's good creation. God plants His word purely; false teaching doesn't originate with Him. The servants' question is humanity's question: if God is sovereign and good, why does evil exist alongside good? The parable's answer: an enemy, working while men sleep, introduces corruption. Satan counterfeits God's work; false religion mimics true religion; tares imitate wheat. The question anticipates verse 28's explanation.

Historical Context

Household servants (δοῦλοι) were responsible for managing the master's property, making crop contamination their concern. The question format reflects ancient Near Eastern legal proceedings where servants reported problems requiring master's judgment. In Jesus's ministry context, this addresses Jewish perplexity: if Messiah has come, why do false teachers and unbelievers remain among God's people?

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this parable address the problem of evil—why does God allow false teaching and counterfeit believers in His church?
2. What does the servants' question reveal about expectations that God's field should contain only wheat?
3. Where do you see the 'good seed' question arising today—blame toward God for evil's presence rather than recognizing the enemy's work?

Interlinear Text

προσελθόντες δὲ οἱ δοῦλοι τοῦ οἰκοδεσπότου εἶπον
came So G3588 the servants G3588 of the householder and said
G4334 G1161 G1401 G3617 G2036

αὐτῷ Κύριε οὐχὶ καλὸν σπέρμα ἔσπειρας ἐν τῷ σῷ
unto him Sir not good seed didst in G3588 thy
G846 G2962 G3780 G2570 G4690 G4687 G1722 G4674

ἀγρῷ πόθεν οὖν ἔχει τὰ ζιζάνια
field from whence then hath it G3588 tares
G68 G4159 G3767 G2192 G2215

Additional Cross-References

Romans 16:17 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

1 Corinthians 16:10 (Parallel theme): Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

2 Corinthians 6:1 (Parallel theme): We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 Corinthians 6:4 (Parallel theme): But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

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