

# 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

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**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;)—pothen 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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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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

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**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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