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Ebb Tide by Sandy Simpson



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Missionary Sandy Simpson is an evangelist and editor of Pacific Waves Newsletter.

The Bible tells us to be peacemakers. If we are truly living in obedience to Jesus Christ we will have the fruit of peace in our lives, the peace that the Holy Spirit gives that helps us go through the darkest times with joy and thanksgiving. The only way to reject the unity of the Spirit is to reject the Lord. We also need to build ourselves up in the unity of the Faith, in the teachings of the

prophets, Apostles and Jesus Christ as contained in the 66 books of the Bible. When people come along with new ideas, they must all be tested against the living written Word. If people teach false doctrines or follow false prophets, they are leaven and must be rejected. This is not going against the unity of the Spirit because those who teach false doctrines without repentance are already out of unity. They are to be rejected by those who obey the written Word. We are to bring people to unity in doctrine, in what we believe. There must always be a balance between peace, unity in the Spirit and the Faith, and rejection of error. Those who strive for unity outside of the Spirit and the Faith are not striving for true unity. The only way to true peace and unity in the Church is for Christians to live in obedience

to what the Bible teaches, and reject false teachings not in line with the Scriptures. There can be no unity without unity of the Faith. Those who are true believers and have the Holy Spirit will always be driven back towards truth, which they will obediently accept. Those who do not have the Spirit are those who, when warned about false teachers and teachings, are unwilling to come back to come back to truth. Obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ is the test of whether or not a person loves Him. If you love the Lord, obey his commands. Then you will know true peace and unity in the body of Christ.

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Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Peace by Sandy Simpson

Biblical Examples Of Peace

1 Chr. 22:9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.

Solomon was the man of peace after the bloody time of King David. David was a great man of God and did the Lord's will in putting down the enemies of the people of God such as the Philistines. Since David was obedient to God, and repented when he sinned, God promised David that his son, Solomon, would have peace and rest from all the enemies of Israel. Solomon was probably the richest king who ever lived. He was the wisest also because he was obedient to the Lord in asking not for riches but for wisdom to govern the people of Israel righteously.

Because of the peace of Solomon Israel became the greatest kingdom on earth during that time. Kings and queens came from all over the world to see Solomon, and get his advice and counsel. Solomon's writings were inspired by God, writings such as Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes. Proverbs is probably the most valuable book of virtues and precepts for moral living.

When we walk in peace, God will bless us with wisdom. Many blessings come from peace. Of course we know that Solomon sinned in his later years and God took away the peace of the reign of Solomon in short reign of his son, Rehoboam. So if we do not live in peace, God can also take his blessings away. As Christians we are to be equipped to spread the gospel of peace.

Eph. 6:13-18 Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that



when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all

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Exposing Error—Is It Worth It? By H.A. Ironside

Objection is often raised even by some sound in the faith-regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. Of late, the hue and cry has been against any and all negative teaching. But the brethren who assume this attitude forget that a large part of the New Testament, both of the teaching of our blessed Lord Himself and the writings of the apostles, is made up of this very

character of ministry-namely, showing the Satanic origin and, therefore, the unsettling results of the propagation of erroneous systems which Peter, in his second epistle, so definitely refers to as "damnable heresies."

Our Lord prophesied, "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Within our own day, how many false prophets have risen; and oh, how many

are the deceived! Paul predicted, "I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch." My own observation is that these "grievous wolves," alone and in packs, are not sparing even the most favoured flocks.

Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Peace *cont.*

occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

We are also to be subject to authorities in society and in the church, with our highest authority being the Lord. We should always endeavor to live peaceably and be considerate to all people.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility towards all men.

You may remember how it is important to show love and joy in our lives as Christians, not only for ourselves but because it is part of our witness and will result in a harvest of believers in Jesus Christ. Being peace-loving has the same effect.

Jas 3:17-18 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Being a peacemaker, however, does not mean that we stop discerning and try to be in unity with those who do not believe. We are called to separate ourselves from unbelievers and false believers. But we still reach out to them in love and peace. We do not curse them but rather pray for them. We try to pull them from the fire.

Jude 1:23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

We are to be in perfect unity with those who are true believers, and be a witness to those who are not through peace, not through strife and conflict. Jesus Christ continues to strive through His Spirit to reach those who have never believed or who have turned away. We can do no less.

Stories Of Peacemakers

Conflict

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that firefighters in Genoa, Texas, were accused of deliberately setting more than forty destructive fires. When caught, they stated, "We had

nothing to do. We just wanted to get the red lights flashing and the bells clanging."

The job of firefighters is to put out fires, not start them. The job of Christians is to help resolve conflict (Matt. 5:9), not start more of it.

Matt. 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

A Pig for a Pig

It was the 1930's on a northern Canadian prairie. The height of the Great Depression. Jansen family was share-cropping but then lost their farm. A friend told them of a farm across from Jud Brewster. Few lasted there because Jud was so mean. But Mr. Jansen said, "I'll just kill him."

They moved to the new farm. One week later, Brewster appeared at their door in a rage. Their chickens were bothering him, and he threatened to kill them. The family locked them up in the henhouse.

There was peace for a time, then he showed up again. "Jansen, your pigs have been in my garden. They'll never get in my garden again!" There, in Brewster's wagon, was their herd of young pigs, all dead. He had shot each of them. Without saying a word, Mr. Jansen buried the pigs.

A few weeks later one of the Jansen boys came rushing into the house. "Daddy, go get a gun quick. Jud Brewster's pigs are in our garden!" The kids could already taste revenge. The father replied, "We won't need a gun. Round up the pigs." After a lot of trouble getting them in the wagon, they headed over to Brewster's farm. "Good evening, Mr. Brewster. Your pigs have been in my garden. I've brought them back." The color drained from Brewster's face. "My pigs, my pigs in your garden?" "That's right. Where do you want us to put them?" Brewster's body sagged against the door and he said, "Just dump them over behind the

barn."

Jansen replied with a slight grin, "OK, but they'll just get out again." When it had sunk in that Jansen had not killed the pigs, Brewster went over and shook Jansen's hand. They talked for a long time. Brewster gave him half the pigs to keep, and on Sunday he came to church. From that point on, he was a changed man.

Later one of his boys asked him what he meant when he said he would kill Brewster when they moved by him. Jansen replied,

"Not with a gun. I planned to do it another way - by heaping coals on his head. That old mean neighbor is as dead as a doornail, just like I'd said he'd be. And we're glad to be alive to see it."

Ro 12:20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Most people respond to kindness and peace, particularly if they have been fighting you or being mean to you. Peace against enemies is probably the best witness you could have.

The Pineapple Story

"The Pineapple Story" is actually a book written by a missionary. The story deals with anger and peacemaking. A missionary and his family asked for a man to plant a garden of pineapples for him. The missionary was going to pay the planter with goods and services. The pineapples took 3 years to ripen. Before they ripened, the pineapples were all stolen. The missionary got angry. He finally found out that the planter was the one who stole the pineapples. He was still angry. The missionary tried to punish the planter several times, but this only made the missionary and his message unpopular. Eventually, the missionary asked God what he should do. Through His Word the missionary was reminded to yield the fruit to God. The missionary decided to do that but the pineapples still get stolen. Bus

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saying, "Hail to Caesar, we die for Caesar" and he thought, "this isn't right." He jumped over the railing and went out into the middle of the field, got between two gladiators, held up his hands and said "In the name of Christ, forbear." The crowd protested and began to shout, "Run him through, Run him through." A gladiator came over and hit him in the stomach with the back of his sword. It sent him sprawling in the sand. He got up and ran back and again said, "In the name of Christ, forbear." The crowd continued to chant, "Run him through." One gladiator came over and plunged his sword through the little monk's stomach and he fell into the sand, which began to turn crimson with his blood. One last time he gasped out, "In the name of Christ forbear."

A hush came over the 80,000 people in the coliseum. Soon a man stood and left, then another

and more, and within minutes all 80,000 had emptied out of the arena. It was the last-known gladiatorial contest in the history of Rome.

Sometimes the Lord may even call us to be peacemakers at the cost of our lives. There may be persecution coming where Christians will be put into prison, persecuted, tortured and killed. But remember always how powerful the witness of Paul and Silas was when they were in prison:

Acts 16:22-34 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and

Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his

family were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Our witness for the Lord is often most visibly demonstrated by the peace that we show during times of trials. Paul and Silas were at peace with the Lord, with their circumstances, so much so that they were praying and singing to the Lord. The prisoners and jailer could not believe that they had such peace after having been whipped, thrown into prison, and had their feet locked into stocks. Because of their attitude and the miraculous deliverance of the Lord, the jailer came to salvation. Being a peacemaker is part of our witness, part of being salt and light in a world where chaos and disorder are commonplace.

Bible Study *end*

The time will come when the truth will be revealed for all to see. There will be a time when the weeds, the birds and the yeast can no longer hide. What will happen to the weeds, as well as the birds and yeast? At the end of the age the Son of Man will send out His angels. They will be the reapers, weeding out of His kingdom "everything that causes sin and all who do evil". Those who have fooled and deceived others into thinking that they truly love the Lord and follow His ways, and are part of His kingdom will be revealed as not only evil themselves, but causing sin in others. This is the great danger today of the deceitful and false teachings and those who teach them. **Matt. 7:15-23** Even though weeds may look like wheat, they can't produce grain for bread to feed the spiritually hungry ones. Instead, their poison kills. What will be their end? It will be without mercy! Look at the descriptions: tied in bundles to be

burned; trees thrown into the fire; "Away from me, you evil-doers"; into the fiery furnace...weeping.... gnashing of teeth. This is a very serious life and death decision. We can't afford to make a mistake. That's why Jesus' teaching is so clear.

On the other hand, the wheat will be gathered into the Lord's barn - the Lord's house! The righteous - made so by Jesus' blood and their commitment to do His will (**Matt 7:21-23**) - will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. They will not be there unless the Lord is really their Father and they have been made righteous. Trusting anything else - even what seems like a good experience that makes you a "holier" Christian than others - is deceitful. Listen to Jesus' words to the Pharisees and you'll know what He thinks of that kind of thing. Once again Jesus closes with "He who has ears, let him hear." In other words, pay attention! This is important!

These 3 parables seem to teach primarily that God's people and the enemy's people live together until the judgment. We must be discerning to be able to tell what is really from God and what is not, but we can't always discern the heart. Although we will have to live with this hypocrisy and heresy among us till the judgment, we must be willing to take our stand for the truth and to warn others so that they don't get swallowed up in it. The world belongs to God. His is the field, the seed, the workers. We need to remember this when the power of evil is so insistent that we think we are helpless before our enemy. Maltbie Babcock wrote in a Christmas song, "though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." In time there will be a judgment that will reveal the whole truth. There will be justice against the hypocrites and false teachers who have hidden themselves in the church and tried to deceive the

believers. How terrible it will be in that day for those who have pretended to be disciples, but have never truly committed themselves to Jesus! The truth will be revealed for all to see, and they will be sent into outer darkness while Jesus' true disciples will be with Him, rejoicing forever.



Juanita Simpson is a retired missionary still serving the Lord in Micronesia after 38 years of ministry.



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SANDY SIMPSON

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Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Peace *cont.*

this time the missionary didn't get angry. The planter noticed the lack of anger and asked why the missionary didn't get angry anymore. The missionary then had an opportunity to witness to the planter. The planter then realized that he was really stealing the pineapples from Lord ... so he stopped stealing them. In the end they all shared the ripened pineapples.

There is more to this story but the moral is that we need to give everything we have to God. Sometimes to keep the peace we must give up our rights. Being a peacemaker sometimes means we must give up our rights in order that the truths of the gospel can come through to people.

How To Be A Peacemaker

A while back TIME magazine awarded its coveted "Man of the Year" award to four men: Nelson Mandela, F. W. DeKlerk, Yassir Arafat, and Yitzhak Rabin. The reason - they each made bold moves to promote peace where there had been long-standing conflict. Unfortunately they were short-lived. But that does not mean we should not try to make peace.

While you will probably never be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, you will have opportunities to play the role of peacemaker from time to time. When conflict occurs in your office here's what the Bible says to do:

PLAN A PEACE CONFERENCE

Take the initiative. Don't wait for either the offended or the offender to make the first move. Conflict is always unpleasant so we naturally avoid facing it. Peacemakers break the deadlock. They know that conflict never resolves itself. It must be intentionally dealt with. "If ... you remember your brother has something against you ... go at once to make peace ..." (Matthew 5:23-24)

EMPATHIZE WITH THEIR FEELINGS

Listen before you talk. Try to look at the situation from their viewpoint. Feelings are not right or wrong - they are just feelings. But they are important! "None of you should look only of his own affairs, but consider other people's interests also." (Philippians 2:4 Ph)

ATTACK THE PROBLEM, NOT THE PERSON

Insults, accusations, and placing blame only make people defensive. You never get your point across by being cross. "A gentle answer quiets anger but a harsh one stirs it up." (Proverbs 15:1)

COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Look for common areas you can agree on. Be willing to admit your mistakes. Be gracious with other's faults. "Do everything possible, on your part, to live at peace with all men." (Romans 12:18)

EMPHASIZE RECONCILIATION, NOT RESOLUTION.

Some differences will never be resolved. But there can be honest disagreements without two parties being disagreeable. Resolution deals with issues. Reconciliation deals with relationships. "God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

To be a good peacemaker, we ourselves must also be at peace.

Perfect Picture of Peace

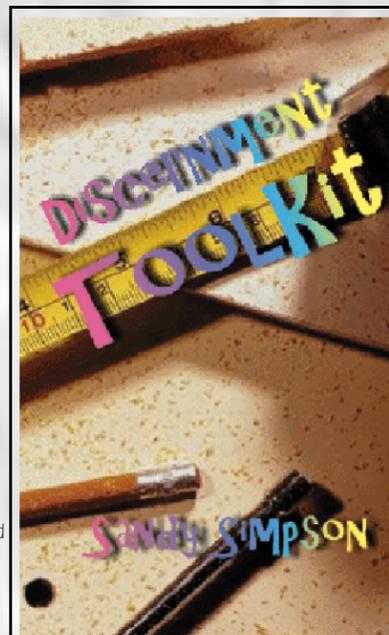
Long ago a man sought the perfect picture of peace. Not finding one that satisfied, he announced a contest to produce this masterpiece. The challenge stirred the imagination of artists everywhere, and paintings arrived from far and wide. Finally the great day of revelation arrived. The judges uncovered one peaceful scene after another,

while the viewers clapped and cheered. The tensions grew. Only two pictures remained veiled. As a judge pulled the cover from one, a hush fell over the crowd. A mirror-smooth lake reflected lacy, green birches under the soft blush of the evening sky. Along the grassy shore, a flock of sheep grazed undisturbed. Surely this was the winner.

The man with the vision uncovered the second painting himself, and the crowd gasped in surprise. Could this be peace? A tumultuous waterfall cascaded down a rocky precipice; the crowd could almost feel its cold, penetrating spray. Stormy-gray clouds threatened to explode with lightning, wind and rain. In the midst of the thundering noises and bitter chill, a spindly tree clung to the rocks at the edge of the falls. One of its branches reached out in front of the torrential waters as if foolishly seeking to experience its full power. A little bird had built a nest in the elbow of that branch. Content and undisturbed in her stormy surroundings, she rested on her eggs. With her eyes closed and her wings ready to cover her little ones, she manifested peace that transcends all earthly turmoil.

The world we live in is a place where it is easy to take our eyes off of Jesus Christ and put them on the surrounding storm, wind and waves like Peter did when he got out of the boat to walk to Jesus. Only when we keep our eyes on Jesus, the author or peace, will we have true peace in a world that is becoming increasingly less peaceful. These are the end times and we know from the Bible that things are going to go from bad to worse. But we have the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, in our lives and when we rest in the Lord we will find peace. The Last of the Gladiators

Telemachus was a monk who lived in the 4th century. He felt God saying to him, "Go to Rome." He was in a cloistered monastery. He put his possessions in a sack and set out for Rome. When he arrived in the city, people were thronging in the streets. He asked why all the excitement and was told that this was the day that the gladiators would be fighting and killing each other in the coliseum, the day of the games, the circus. He thought to himself, "Four centuries after Christ and they are still killing each other, for enjoyment?" He ran to the coliseum and heard the gladiators



Demolish Arguments!

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Bible Study *by Juanita Simpson*

The Parables of Jesus – Part 7 The Weeds, the Mustard Seed and the Yeast Matt. 13:24-43

For the setting of these 3 parables we have to look back at the beginning of chapter 13. **Matt. 13:2** A large crowd was gathered around Jesus, so large that He got into a boat and sat in it so that the people could hear Him well as His voice was reflected off of the water. There was a smaller group gathered closely around Him. They were the disciples. **Matt. 13:10** Jesus chose to use parables to teach. That was a fulfillment of what was prophesied about Him in **Psalms 78:2**.

First we'll look at the actual parables and then we'll study Jesus' explanation of the first one to help us understand all three. It seems that Jesus is making it clear that there were and still are hypocritical believers and false teachers hidden in the church.

The Kingdom of heaven always refers to God's kingdom, not only in heaven but here on earth. It's the kingdom of heaven because God is the King. But it's operative both now and eternally. The picture of God's Kingdom is of a farmer. He sowed good wheat seed in his field, hoping to get a good crop. But he had an enemy who came while everyone was sleeping and secretly sowed weeds among the wheat. It seems that no one knew he was there. When the wheat sprouted it revealed the fact that some of the sprouts were really wheat and some were weeds. The nature of wheat makes it evident that it is real wheat. I read a story about a boy who stole his father's watermelon and ate it out in the field while he was gone. He lied and his father believed him - until the seeds that he had spit out sprouted. There was a big cluster of watermelon plants growing. This revealed the truth to his father.

The servants of the land owner didn't know what to do. Where had the weeds come from? In the Middle East there is a

kind of poisonous weed called darnel that, especially in its early stages, looks so much like wheat that not even a farmer can tell the difference at first. They are so intermixed that it is hard to tell one from the other. But there is a major difference between wheat and darnel. Wheat is good for food and darnel is poisonous! The farmer knew where the weeds were from! They were planted by his enemy. Should they go and pull them out? Usually we weed our gardens so that the real plants can grow better. But with wheat, it might not work because wheat grows very close together. It looks like one great solid field rather than rows like corn or beans. The roots of the wheat and darnel become so intertwined that they can't be separated without killing the wheat. The farmer told them to just leave the weeds rather than pull them up and at the same time uproot the wheat. His advice was to let the wheat & weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest, the darnel would be collected first, tied in bundles and used at fuel for the fire. Then the shafts of wheat would be gathered into His barn.

The next parable is about mustard seeds. Mustard seeds were used in the Middle East as an example of very small seeds that grow quickly into big plants. There are smaller seeds, but they usually are seeds of small plants. In **Matt. 17:20** Jesus used the mustard seed as an example of true faith. It may seem very small, but real faith in a real God can do great things. Be careful that you don't think of your faith or someone else's faith as the reason for great things. God is the reason!!! A mustard seed when it grows actually becomes a small tree, often 12-15 feet tall. Here it represents the kingdom of heaven. The church of Jesus Christ, though it began very small, grew to be like a large tree. It was big enough for birds to perch in its branches. So here we have a small seed that grows into a tree, and then birds come to live in it.

The third parable is about yeast. Yeast is like the birds or the

weeds in the sense that it is small but it has an effect on the whole dough. When we use a little yeast in our dough, it affects the whole big batch of dough. In this case the kingdom of heaven is like the big batch of dough, but what does the yeast represent? To understand what Jesus was saying about yeast, we need to read **Matt. 16:5-12**. When Jesus told the disciples to be on their guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees, they thought He was blaming them for not bringing bread. It had nothing to do with bread - not there or here. Didn't they understand that He could always provide for them as He had for the 5000 and the 4000? They finally understood as revealed in **v. 12**. The yeast was the deceitful and false teaching of the Pharisees & Sadducees that had a tendency to infiltrate the loaf of God's true followers. Yeast is very dangerous because it permeates the loaf. It's harder to separate it and see its evil than weeds and birds.

When Jesus had left the crowd and gone into the house with only His disciples, they asked Him about the first parable. When we understand that, we can also understand the 2nd and 3rd parables because the theme is the same.

Jesus explained that the sower of the good seed is the Son of Man, Jesus. The field represents the world. The good seed represents the sons of the kingdom or true believers. Why does Jesus plant them in the world? They, like wheat, provide real food to hungry and dying people. Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My sheep." The weeds represent the sons of the evil one, unbelievers who appear to be believers, but who actually are sons of God's enemy - hiding among the wheat, in the tree branches, or in the dough. The enemy is the devil. Why does Satan plant unbelievers among the true Christians? They are planted in the midst of believers to hinder their growth and try to destroy their faith. They are not food and offer nothing good to

the world. In fact, they are poison that kills! The harvest comes at the end of the age and the harvesters are the angels.

So in the other parables we can see that while the mustard tree is God's true church, there are birds in its branches. The church began as a tiny seed but then grew into the largest garden plant. It became so big that the birds perched in its branches. They hid among the leaves as if they were part of the tree, but we know that birds are not branches on a tree! Birds are often used in the Bible as an example of an evil influence. **Rev. 18:2** The birds look like they belong, but they don't. The yeast in the dough permeates the whole dough, just as the weeds fill the field between every stalk of wheat and the birds sit on every branch. Jesus is saying that this condition will remain this way in the world until the end when the judgment comes. We need to have discernment to distinguish between the wheat and the weeds, but we can't always tell which are true believers and which are hypocrites. Only the judgment will show exactly which are which.

Should we accept the weeds, the birds and the yeast as O.K.? If God doesn't accept them as O.K., then we shouldn't. This is why Jesus makes it very clear that the weeds are the sons of God's enemy. The same is true of the birds and the yeast. This is the way things are in this world. We have an enemy who is always trying to destroy those of us who are true disciples of Christ. Do these parables mean that we are supposed to mix with these who are pretending to be believers? Is it O.K. to go along with them? That is not the meaning of these parables. They are pictures of the world's condition. Jesus tells us in many places not to join them, but to separate ourselves from them. **II Cor. 6:17; II John 10,11** We need to be very discerning to be able to identify what is true and what is false and then have nothing to do with the false teachers or their followers.