



UNCOVER

LAST WEEK'S
MESSAGE

Be Genuine, Not Fake

Jesus told us through the parables in Matthew 13 what separates a genuine believer from a counterfeit one. He talks about the eternal destiny that awaits those who truly believe and those who are deceived.

The Parables of the Tares and Wheat (MATTHEW 13:24-30)

The wheat and tares look alike, but the difference shows when the wheat bears grain – its stalk bows down while the tares would stay as they were (explained in vv.36-43). Genuine and fake believers are known by their fruit. However, Jesus tells us that it is NOT our job to pinpoint who are genuine and who are fake. Out of grace and mercy, Jesus commands not to force “tares” or “fake followers” out. Be patient, for at the end of the age, He will be the One to take care of the separation. He will gather all who truly believe to Himself in Heaven, and those who do not believe will be thrown in the furnace where there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v.42) – a place of eternal helplessness and hopelessness. Let us examine not the faith of others, but our own faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Are we genuine or are we fake?

The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven (MATTHEW 13:31-34)

These parables describe the transformation that will happen when genuine followers hear and obey the truth by faith. There is an evident change in the life of a genuine believer who has submitted his life to the Lord. Genuine Christians are born again of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23). There will be growth that's evident. Leaven permeates the dough which expands and grows. The evidence of a true, genuine follower of Jesus is the fruit – the power of transformation and growth of character – we become more and more like Christ. It also includes the power of influence, enabling us to draw others closer to Jesus. True followers will see changes in their lives.

this week's memory verse

Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

MATTHEW 25:13

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Costly Pearl (MATTHEW 13:44-46)

These stories describe people who understand the gospel — their hearts, minds, values, and perspectives were changed. When we truly understand the gospel and what Jesus had done for us, we would be willing to trade off, exchange, give up, and surrender all that we have for Him, because what He has given us is something of far greater eternal value. The Apostle Paul counted all things as “loss” or “rubbish” compared to the “surpassing value” of knowing Jesus as his Lord (Philippians 3:8). Genuine followers of Jesus understand the value of the gospel. Salvation is FREE, but not CHEAP. To have Jesus, we also need to have a radical decision – the willingness to surrender all to follow Jesus. It should cost us everything! Salvation is by grace, not bought by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). You only achieve it by faith shown through your transformed life (James 2:17, Jude 4).

The Parable of the Dragnet (MATTHEW 13:47-50)

The imagery of hell in the parable of tares and wheat is repeated in this last parable. Jesus showed how serious this is – we must make sure we are true followers of Jesus! Heaven and Hell are eternal realities. It shows the importance of the lessons Jesus presented in these parables. Are you a genuine Christian? Is there growth and transformation? Is your heart, your passion, and your values/priorities transformed? We should have the willingness to follow and surrender all to Him (Luke 9:25-26). We must examine ourselves – are we genuine or fake?

May we find ourselves in God’s truth and light every waking moment of our lives!

discussion questions

What are the evidences that you are a genuine Christian?

What are some lasting changes that’s ongoing in your life now?

How can you show that Jesus is your highest priority?

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