

Matthew 13:24-30
The problem of evil

**If God is perfectly good
and all powerful why does
meaningless evil exist?**

**Could the Christian claims
about God be false?**

Matthew 13

"²⁴ He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' And the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰ 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Three lessons

1.

Inquire -

**Thinking people are going to have questions
about why evil is allowed to persist.**

²⁷ And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

Three lessons

2.

Relax -

**Godly servants are not responsible for the
elimination of all evil.**

²⁸ And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' And the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them.'

Three lessons

3.

Wait -

Perfect justice will come but not in this age.

³⁰ 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'

Three lessons

Inquire

Relax

Wait

Respond -

**Evil and suffering provide a unique
opportunity to develop and
demonstrate character as well as to
know and worship Christ.**

Deuteronomy 29:29

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

Much of the meaning of suffering in this life has not been revealed.



But the meaning of the suffering of Christ has been revealed.

Isaiah 53:3-5

“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him. surely our grief’s he himself bore and our sorrows he carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken smitten of God and afflicted be he was pierced through for our transgressions he was crucified for our iniquities the chastening for our well-being fell upon him and by his scourging we are healed.”

Philippians 3:10

“that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and **the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death;”