



*Come, ye blessed  
of my Father,  
inherit the kingdom  
prepared for you  
from the foundation  
of the world.*

MATTHEW 25:34

# Wake Union Baptist Church

*"Where the good news of Jesus Christ  
is proclaimed in truth and love"*

**THE LORD'S DAY**

**August 9, 2020**

Call to Worship      *'Til the Storm Passes By*

Invocation

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Reading      **Daniel 4:8-12**

Hymn      *What a Day That Will Be*

Children's Bible Time March (ages 3-6)

Morning Prayer

Hymn      *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*      329

Offertory Prayer

Doxology      *Praise God, from Whom  
All Blessings Flow*      253

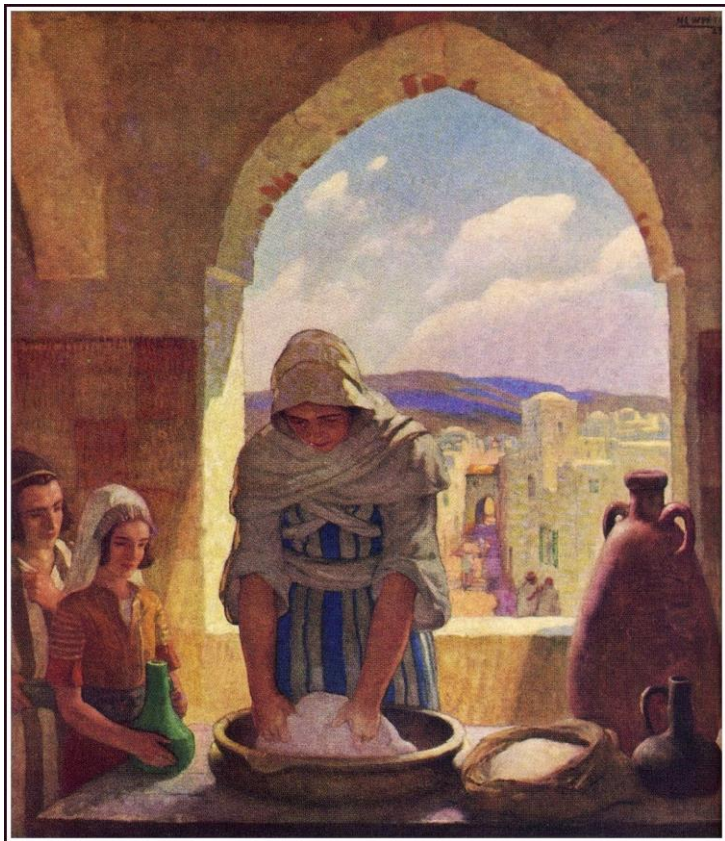
Hymn      *At the Cross*      139

Sermon      ***STORIES OF THE KINGDOM***      Pastor Joel  
***Matthew 13:24-35***

Invitation      *Shine, Jesus Shine*      579

Benediction





N. C. Wyeth "The Parables of Jesus: The Leaven" 1931.

### Not All Morals Are The Same

In our passage today, Jesus talks about the transforming power of the Kingdom of God on the earth. When Christianity began to influence culture, it changed the western world (God is still working to change other parts of the world). In our modern world, that has already been so incredibly changed by Christianity (we might say, God's influence through His people and His Scripture). The world was so different, historically, it may be unbelievable today.

In modern academia, it is generally believed that former civilizations were generally noble and fair. This is not only not the case, but the "morals" were so foreign from actual morality that it hardly seems right to call them morals, as the following chart will show.

May we never slide back into the cruel pagan cultures of former centuries. Hold fast to what is good (1 Thess. 5:21).

	Greco-Roman Culture	Other Cultures	Christianity
Child Abandonment	Condoned and practiced for centuries without guilt or remorse; extolled by Greco-Roman mythologies	Condoned and practiced for centuries in Persia, Africa, and many other pagan societies before and after the birth of Christ	Condemned by Christians, who rescued and adopted many castaway Greco-Roman children
Abortion	Condoned, advocated by philosophers, and widely practiced long before and after Christianity entered Greco-Roman society	Practiced for centuries in virtually all pagan cultures before and after the birth of Christ	Condemned by the early Christian writers, such as Tertullian, in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century. He said that to kill a child in the womb is murder.
Human Sacrifices	Roman gladiatorial shows sacrificed multitudes of human beings for public entertainment before and after Christ	The Canaanites, some deviant Hebrews, and virtually all ancient societies sacrificed children, often to pagan deities; Aztec and Maya Indians sacrificed captive warriors in their religious rites	Christian emperors outlawed gladiatorial games in the East in the 390s and in the West in 404

*How Christianity Changed the World*, by Alvin Schmidt, page 71.

May we never take for granted the influence of God's rule through Christians in the world today. Christianity's influence, God's kingdom come, is a wonderful blessing that has brought life to a world of death, a blessing to all nations.

Jesus loves you!

### Prayer Request Updates

Our Nation – Protection, healing, and especially turning to the Lord Jesus.	Coronavirus victims and those grieving over the loss of loved ones.
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# Salvation for Anyone

1. Does everyone have a chance to become a Christian?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Luke 3:6
- Acts 2:21
- Romans 5:18
- Romans 10:13
- 1 Timothy 2:4
- Titus 2:11-12
- 2 Peter 3:9

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

These verses are about who God wants to follow him—  
EVERYBODY! But not everybody will. You can be sure of one  
thing, though: no one who comes to God sincerely will be  
turned away. He doesn't play favorites.

## Sermon Points on Matthew 13

1. Embattled Kingdom (24-30)
  - a. Counterfeit Kingdom That We Must avoid (24-28a)
  - b. Condemned Kingdom That We Can Escape (28b-30)
2. Embracing Kingdom (31-33)
  - a. Growing Kingdom for all (31-32)
  - b. Going Kingdom to all (33)

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## Questions & Conclusions

*The kingdom of heaven is like* ([13:24](#)). The phrase used to introduce six of the seven parables in this chapter.

*Weeds* ([13:25](#)). Probably dandelion, which looks very much like wheat when it is young, although later it is easily distinguished.

1. a. What type of "seed" is mentioned in [13:24](#). What is this other seed?  
b. Who sowed it?
2. a. What was the farmer doing in [13:25-30](#) while the weeds were sown?  
b. What did the farmer tell his servants to do about the weeds?  
c. What will happen to the weeds at harvest time?
3. Why did Jesus continue to teach in parables ([13:34-35](#))?

*The smallest of all your seeds* ([13:32](#)). While not the smallest seed known today, in Palestine during the time of Jesus, the mustard seed was the smallest seed used by farmers and gardeners. Mustard plants could reach ten feet in height.

4. What is the connection between the kingdom and the size of the mustard seed and how it grows ([13:31-32](#))?
5. a. In what way is the kingdom like yeast ([13:33](#))?  
b. What is the main point of this parable?

*Lifecchange*