

3. *The resulting problem, destruction, or toleration?* Bring out Jesus' answer: (a) Wise toleration, where destruction of evil would also destroy the good. The principle of Jesus is to conserve all good, even if it means the toleration of evil. Where no good is involved, destroy the works of the devil. (b) The final separation will come at the end of the world, when the Judge of all will do the work. Teach the lesson of leaving to God the punishment of evil, as it demands a knowledge man cannot attain. (c) The final destiny of good is to shine forth in the presence of God; the final destiny of evil is banishment from God into the furnace of fire. Notice that destiny is according to moral character.

4. *The agents who assist in the final ingathering and separation*,—the angels, ministers of God's judgments.

Summarize the outstanding truths in practical lessons: First, the forces of evil are destined to intermingle with the kingdom of God. Evil is secondary and gradually losing its power as the harvest of good increases. This should cheer us. The victory is with the truth. And also save us from falsely accusing ourselves for the presence of evil in the world and church. Second, the wisdom of not seeking to secure an absolutely pure church on earth. Human wisdom is not competent to see all the good and evil. Many weak Christians and many strong Christians have been cast out by ignorant ecclesiastics. We must recognize the limitations of our knowledge and power. Third, the final triumph of the kingdom shall be supremely glorious. Urge the possession of those moral and spiritual virtues which are eternal.

### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Get some one to tell the parable story. Ask the class if they have ever known anything like this. Tell them the story which Trench tells of how a tenant, who had been rejected, sowed wild oats in the landlord's fields and almost ruined the farm. Note that this parable is the history, not of good and evil in the life of the individual, but of good and evil people in the world. If it were the history of good and evil in the life of the

individual, instruction would have been given to pull up the tares at once.

1. *The Origin of Good and Evil People*, vs. 37-39. Good people are all related to the Son of man; bad people are related to the evil one. This will be sure to lead some one to ask if God did not create the whole human race,—if we are not all God's children. A sufficient answer to this will be, that God created man good, and that the devil does his best to re-create him evil. People go to a good deal of trouble in tracing their descent. Note that Christ's method of tracing human pedigree is very simple. We are either children of the kingdom, or children of the evil one. Every good life is the result of God's good seed; and every evil life is the result of the devil's evil seed.

2. *The Association of Good and Evil People in the World*, vs. 26-30. Note that in the early stages of growth the wheat and the tares look alike. We cannot always tell in boyhood and girlhood how life will develop. But the time comes when there is no difficulty in telling the wheat from the tares, the good from the evil. What is to be done then? Discuss the method suggested by the servants. How has the adoption of this method worked in the history of the church? What is the divine method? What reason does Jesus give for tolerating evil people in the world? (V. 29.) The present condition of things is best for all concerned.

3. *The Separation of Good and Evil People*, vs. 40-43. When? How? Why? We have here the doom of the wicked and the reward of the righteous. Have John 3:16 read, and explain and impress it. Let us make sure that our own lives are right in God's sight, and let us work and pray to help others to live well.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Review briefly the previous Lesson. What three parables did Jesus speak? What did the first teach? That the seed grows secretly. What did the parable of the mustard seed teach? That the seed grows greatly. How does the leaven affect the meal?

Ask the class questions on the Lesson for to-day. Why did Jesus speak in parables about the kingdom? (See Exposition.)