

"The Great Impersonator"  
Monahan/Bernal 5/1/90

There are a number of diseases today that stump many doctors /

The symptoms they produce are very much like other diseases /  
(And it complicates matters)

<sup>they</sup> <sup>are</sup> So much alike that it's necessary to submit a person to many tests and examinations just to find out what the disease is <sup>And even then the doctor</sup> <sup>has not</sup> <sup>the answer</sup> you might call the disease "An Impersonator" or Imposter //

Now the reason the disease is called an "Impersonator" is because it looks so much like another disease that they appear to be something they aren't. ~~Very much like another~~ //

During his ministry, Jesus spoke of people like that. However he did not call them an Impersonator, he called them Hypocrites //

He used stories or parables to help  
people understand better // And  
each one had a message in  
it self // One worth hearing.

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In Matthew Chapter 13, Verses 3-9  
Jesus shared the "Parable of the  
Sower" //

He talked about 4 kinds of  
soils, Each one representing  
the way people heard & acted  
in response to the Gospel //

All the seed was the same // But not  
all the ground receptive //

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In Verses 31 & 32 Jesus spoke of  
the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

How the work of God's Kingdom  
had a very unimpressive beginning  
in the eyes of the world. // But  
how it would grow and grow  
and provide shelter for all who  
would take advantage of what  
it offered.

2/ Then in Matthew 13 Verses 44-50  
the Parable of the Pearl and the  
Net are recorded ~~It~~ It was  
Jesus way of getting the word out  
that, "Being a part of Gods Kingdom  
was well worth the effort" And  
that the Invitation of God was  
a universal one // And that  
"Teachers would be judges" //

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But if we look carefully, there is  
another parable mentioned in  
Matthew Chapter 13 // You'll find  
it in Verses 24 thru 30, And  
you could call it, "The Parable of  
the Great Pretender" or "Impersonator"

Let's Read Matthew 13: 24-30 (Do So)

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Now mention is made of a "Tare"  
And we ask, "What is so peculiar  
about a tare" //

Well a tare is a weed that grows  
about as tall as wheat. And looks  
very much like wheat =

The Seeds of the Tare <sup>can be</sup> ~~are~~ poisonous  
to man = Some time causing death

However, If a person has knowledge  
of blight life - they can spot the  
tare early // But for most of  
us / the tare would go undetected.

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Now it's sad to say but in some  
places the church is like that  
field Jesus mentioned in Verse 24 //

The Good Seed is Jesus, And a ~~harvest~~  
is expected // It's hoped that the  
harvest will be a good one //  
after all, if the pastor is  
a faithful one, the seed will  
be the very best and he will  
expect a harvest //

You know that we're talking about  
the word of God, don't you //

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Have you ever wondered ~~that~~ that if  
the seed is so good, how there  
could be anything like a tare in the field?

3/ Oh listen Dear hearts, There is  
Another sower of seeds // Sure is,

He's the One who "Comes while men  
sleep" // He's the one who comes in  
the Darkness and "Sows tares  
among the wheat" // He's the other  
Voice men Hear //

"He's your enemy and my enemy"

Did you notice in the story  
that Jesus told, that at first  
the tares are not recognized  
for what they are // They appear  
to be wheat, but ~~are not wheat~~ //

But then Jesus lets the hearer  
know that there is one who knows  
the difference // One<sup>who</sup> knows the  
Good Seed from the Bad // One who  
knows the wheat from the tares //

One, knows the pretender from the  
Real thing // And one day the secret  
will be revealed = at the end

Note if you will that at some time  
during the Growth period, and  
before the harvest, a servant of  
the Land owner comes to the  
Master, and the news he brings is  
good news - "Master, there are tares  
among the wheat"

The servant can't understand it //  
"Master, how could it be. The  
seed planted was good seed" //  
And the Master knows what has  
happened "The enemy has done this"

Now listen O ears, there is a  
message here for all of us -  
And we need to get it // // //

Then the servant asks "Master, shall  
we gather the tares now, shall  
we deal with this impostor now // // //

"Shall we gather the tares  
from the wheat now" // And the  
Householder says, No, not now, but  
at the harvest it will be done -

4" Let them grow until the harvest, then  
I'll tell the Reapers to separate  
the wheat from the tares, For  
I know one from the other"

"At that time I'll put the wheat in  
the barn and burn the tares"

One you listening dear hearts?

Here is a message to each  
of us, or well on to the world.

Now  
Jesus is not talking about wheat  
and tares. He's talking about people.

He's not talking about seed as we  
know it. He's talking about people.  
"Saved people & lost people"

He's talking about sincere and loyal  
and faithful people. And Jesus is  
talking about pretenders. People  
who claim to be our friends, but  
are really not what they seem  
to be. They are Impersonators."

The wheat Represents those who belong to the Family of God, And the tares represent those who are only pretenders

Did you know that you could be sitting next to a pretender? a lost person (The Bible says you could) Perhaps someone who appears to be saved yet God knows that they are lost

Oh listen, it's frightful to think that a best friend could be a tare that a husband or a wife, a mother or a son, a sister or a brother could be a tare, and we not know it. And it's even more sad that children become pretenders because parents are they may fool us but God knows wheat from tares. He does. He knows pretenders & imposters. He knows every heart in this place tonight. He knows who is pretending & who is not.



5/ And Right Now He Allows us to go about our ways - together

But did you <sup>Also</sup> Notice in the parable that Jesus spoke of a harvest // a time when the wheat and the tares would be separated //

a time when the Sincere would be separated from the Pretender

a time when the Saved would be separated from the lost - //

Dear hearts, Jesus would not have said it had it not been true - AMEN

When will it be? // I have no idea, But this I do know, "It is One Day Nearer today than it was yesterday" //

The Harvest could be tonight / It might be next week / or next year / But one thing is certain, There will be a harvest and there will be a time of judgment -

Read Ours in Hebrews 9:27 And  
you'll find these words, "And as  
it is appointed unto man once  
to die, but after this the judgement"

You may be here tonight and laugh  
under your breath at this message  
And you may go undetected by us  
tonight ~~///~~ But not when the harvest  
comes ~~///~~ all the masks will be  
removed ~~///~~ and the faces shown ~~///~~

In Matthew 13:39 Jesus said "The harvest  
is the end of the world, and the  
reapers are the angels ~~///~~ They'll be  
told who is wheat and who is tare  
(who is saved & who is lost) ~~///~~

They'll be told who to be gathered to God  
and who to bind for burning ~~///~~

All the impostors will be  
judged by the one who reads  
every heart ~~///~~ And these

hearts are being read even  
as we speak ~~///~~

4 Am you listening / I'm showing this with you because I feel God wants me to /  
I'm showing this with you because God loves you and because I love you //

Being a church member does not mean for certain that you are wheat //

Being baptized does not always mean a person is wheat //

Man see Jesus told us that God allows wheat & tares to co-exist now //

They enjoy the same blessings //

The same sun // The same rain //

but one day all that will change //

one day from loaf, there will be a harvest (and harvest is figurative)

It means judgment = //

It will come at the end of the "Grace Age" //

It will be complete and final //

but it will be just

Do you want to know what'll happen?  
Listen to Verses 41-42 & 43 Read them

- ① Every Pretender will be exposed / every imposter will be seen as they really are
- ② Those who have all along that they were tares will be bound up
- ③ Those who allowed the devil to deceive will reap their reward

Now see Dear People "God has all the evidence" And the Imposter will be judged by this evidence =

what'll they get?  
a slap on the hand (No) / a few harsh words (No) / so many hours of community work (No) / a suspended sentence // Absolutely Not

Look at Verse 42 "The tares" / The Imposters  
Those who made believe they were saved but were not // will find out how foolish they were // and will pay the price every pretender will pay "Cast into the furnace" and they shall be working & crushing of teeth"

2/ Unheard of comments (That's how it will  
be for Pauline / for I expect) (But it  
doesn't have to be)

But in v. 43 there is a different story  
told = ~~the~~ wheat or the sowed will  
inherit all God's word has  
promised // They shall enjoy forever  
being in the presence of Jesus

Verse 43 Also says: "Who hath ears, let him  
hear" // Have you been listening? // Oh I  
pray that you have  
"Please bow your head & close your eyes"

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Be honest now are you wheat (sowed) or  
are you tares (lost) you know and  
God knows (He sure does)

If you are sowed, you need to be careful //  
you also need to pray for any who  
may be here lost

one you lost? // Never having admitted  
your need of a savior? // Would you  
admit that need right now?

Come in a minute and tell this  
brother what your need is

He'll tell you what God wants you to  
hear & what ~~you~~ need to hear

He'll tell you what ~~what~~ is and  
what a ~~love~~ is when we sing,  
you come quickly —

Maybe you're saved, but not completely  
submitted to the Lord // Perhaps knowing  
there are things God would have you  
be doing to enhance His Kingdom work  
Maybe habits to lay aside

I doubt very seriously if there is  
anyone here, at the age of understanding  
who does not know the decision they  
need to make — Remember, just as  
God knows what your soul is, He also  
knows our hearts — would you  
come and make all things right  
with God — I pray that you will  
Prayer