

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

Mt. 13:24-30

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Mt. 13:24-30

Don't fall asleep...like Jonah

➤ Jonah slept to avoid responsibility

- God had given Jonah a duty to fulfill (1:2)
- Sometimes people's lives mirror the digression of Jonah
 - ✓ God says "arise" but instead he directs his life heads down (:3) down (:5) down (2:6)
- When we are shaken from our stupor (1:6) it is not time for self destruction (1:12) but to call upon God (1:6)



Don't fall asleep...like Samson



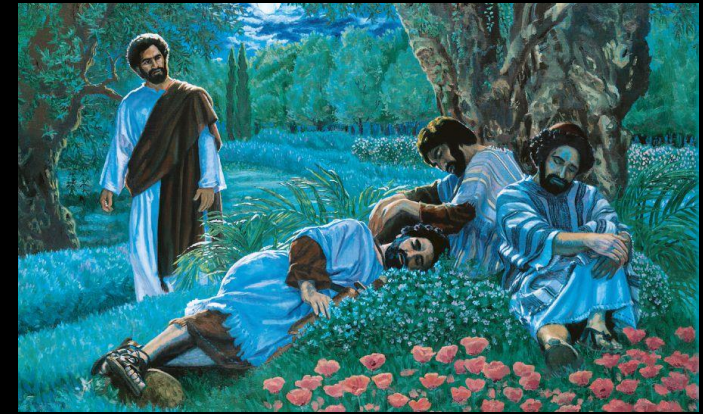
➤ Samson slept when he should have been on alert

- Ultimately he fell victim to his fleshly inclinations (Judges 16:1-19)
- When he was asleep the enemy took advantage of him (:19)
- When the Lord departs from us we are vulnerable to destruction (:20-21)

Don't fall asleep...like the disciples

➤ The disciples slept because of fatigue

- Jesus wanted them to watch with him in prayer (Mk. 14:34)
- The disciples slept because of physical/mental weakness (:38-41)
- There are times when we are worn down physically or spiritually-but like Christ, when Calvary was on the horizon He was alert in Gethsemane



Don't fall asleep...like the sluggard



➤ The sluggard slept because of laziness

- Problems will creep up on a man because of his penchant for sleep (Prov. 24:33-34)
- This man's issues related to a failure to perform preventative maintenance (:31-32)

Don't fall asleep...like the Ephesians



➤ The Ephesians (some) slept because they were careless

- Often the world is characterized by a lackadaisical approach to life's big questions
- They need to be brought to life by the gospel (Eph. 2:1-5)
- This described the state of some Corinthians as well (1 Cor. 11:30)
- Let us not sleep like the world (1 Thess. 5:6-8) but be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8-9)