



BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW

The Tragedy of King Lear



William Shakespeare

Edited by G. B. Harrison

A Complete Text of the Performance for
THE SHAKESPEARE RECORDING SOCIETY, INC., NEW YORK

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“The most perfect
specimen of the dramatic
art existing in the world.”

P.B. Shelley

It explores universal themes like...

It explores universal themes like...
aging

It explores universal themes like...

aging

hubris

It explores universal themes like...

aging

hubris

betrayal

It explores universal themes like...

aging loss

hubris

betrayal

It explores universal themes like...

aging

loss

hubris

fractured family

betrayal

It explores universal themes like...

aging

loss

hubris

fractured family

betrayal

mental illness





Parable #1 – The Sower and Seed

Parable #1 – The Sower and Seed

Parable #2 – The Wheat and Weeds

1. The parable **presented** (24-30)

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“He put another parable before them ...”

“saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,

“but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

“So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

““And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?”

“He said to them, “An enemy has done this.”
So the servants said to him, “Then do you
want us to go and gather them?”

“But he said, “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.”

“Let both grow together until the harvest,
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,

“Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” (24-30)

1. The parable presented (24-30)
2. The parable **explained** (36-43)

“Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying,

“Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” (36)

7 Key Connections

sower = **Son of Man** (37)

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- to the unknowing - weakness

sower = **Son of Man** (37)

- to the unknowing - weakness
- to the knowing - majesty

“I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.

“And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;

“his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.”

Daniel 7:13-14

sower = Son of Man (37)

field = **the world** (38)

sower = Son of Man (37)

field = the world (38)

good seed = **the sons of the kingdom** (38)

weeds = **the sons of the evil one** (38)

weeds = the sons of the evil one (38)

enemy = **the devil** (39)

weeds = the sons of the evil one (38)

enemy = the devil (39)

harvest = **the end of the age** (39)

reapers = **the angels** (39)

Two gatherings:

- a gathering of **evil** (41-42)

“The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,

“and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (41-42)

Two gatherings:

- a gathering of evil (41-42)
- a gathering of **good** (43)

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in
the kingdom of their Father.
He who has ears, let him hear.” (43)

1. The parable presented (24-30)
2. The parable explained (36-43)
3. The parable **applied**

A kingdom understanding of reality embraces:

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- **mutuality** - “let both grow together” (30)

“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world,

“or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters,
since then you would need to go out of the
world.”

1 Corinthians 5:9-10

“But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed,

“or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or
swindler — not even to eat with such a one.

“For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?”

“God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you.’”

1 Corinthians 5:11-13

A kingdom understanding of reality embraces:

- mutuality - “let both grow together” (30)
- **ambiguity** - “let both grow...” (30)

“Let both grow together” (30a)

* This means we don't flatter ourselves in thinking we know everyone's hearts!

“We seem alike when thus we meet,
Strangers might think we all are wheat;
But to the Lord’s all-searching eyes
Each heart appears without disguise.”

John Newton

- * This also means we don't pretend to know what we don't know.

- mutuality - “let both grow together” (30)
- ambiguity - “let both grow...” (30)
- **patience** - “let both grow together until the harvest” (30)

The harvest represents two things:

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- unimaginable **suffering** (42)

The harvest represents two things:

- unimaginable suffering (42)
- indescribable **brightness** (43)

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (43a)

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and
what we will be has not yet appeared;

“but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

“And everyone who thus hopes in him
purifies himself as he is pure.”

1 John 3:2-3

“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Psalm 27:14

waiting = **desire** + **delay** in **suspense**

- Abraham - slept with Hagar

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- Saul - offered an illicit sacrifice

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- Disciples - wanted to call down fire

- Abraham - slept with Hagar
- Saul - offered an illicit sacrifice
- Disciples - wanted to call down fire
- Thessalonians - some stopped working

It takes courage and strength to...

“Let both grow together
until the harvest” (30)

A kingdom understanding of reality
embraces...

Mutuality

Ambiguity

Patience

Think of something you are currently facing...

How might kingdom eyes (MAP) enable you to see it differently?