

**Jesus – the Greatest Teacher**

1. In the parables Jesus told in this chapter, what did He compare the kingdom of heaven to in each one (24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47)? How would the people of Jesus' day have been able to relate to these things Jesus was using to illustrate His teaching?
2. For both parables in verses 44-46, people today give two conflicting interpretations – one is that a person from joy sells all he/she has to enter the kingdom, while the other is that Jesus from joy sold all to buy the people of the kingdom. Which do you believe Jesus was teaching here, and why do you think so?
3. What similarities do you see between the dragnet parable (47-50) and the parable of the wheat and tares (24-30)? What differences do you see (they are not the same)? How can Jesus' explanation of the wheat and tares (37-43) help us understand the dragnet parable?
4. What is your reaction to what Jesus said about the destiny of the wicked at “the end of the age,” which will be when Christ returns to earth (49-50)? If Christians took this to heart more, how do you think we might live differently?
5. Do you think the disciples truly “understood all these things” (51)? Why or why not? If they didn't, why do you think they answered Jesus in this way? Have you ever said something like this so you wouldn't look bad to others? (Not saying that's what they did, but maybe...)
6. What was a “scribe” in Jesus' day (52)? What other group of religious leaders were they often associated with in Matthew (5:20; 12:38)? Can you recall a time in Matthew so far when a scribe “has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven”? Although Acts 6:7 does not specifically mention scribes, what hope does this verse give you that some scribes may have become disciples of the kingdom at a later time? If that did happen, what would those scribes then do with what they knew from the Old Testament and Jesus' teachings (52b)?
7. Where did Jesus go after teaching these parables, and what did He do there (53-54a)? How did the people receive Him (54b-57a)? What lesson did He teach them (57b)? What kept Him from doing many miracles there (58)? How does this compare with other responses Jesus had received recently in Matthew (11:19, 20; 12:2, 10, 14, 15, 23, 24, 38-39)?
8. Review: What reasons did Jesus give in this chapter for teaching in parables (10-15, 34-35)? How well would you say He had accomplished those objectives by the end of the chapter?