

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jesus Tells the Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Q1. *The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field:* What is "good seed"?

²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

Q2. *While everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat:* Who is the "enemy"?

Q3. *While everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat:* What does the "wheat" represent?

Q4. *While everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat:* What do "weeds" represent?

Lesson 25: Matthew 13:24-46

²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

Q5. *When the wheat sprouted and formed heads*: What does “*formed heads*” represent?

In real-life farming?

Metaphorically: as Jesus intended?



Wheat

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²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

Q6. *Where then did the weeds come from*: Do we have to be vigilant against “*weeds*” in our own lives?



When I was a young teenager, this city kid spent some summer weekends working on a farm. One of the chores the farmer's family and I performed plucked thistles from a sweet pea field. The peas were ready to be harvested, but first thistles had to be removed by breaking the thistle heads from its stalk. (The harvesting machines could not discern the difference between thistles and pea pods – it took them both. The farmer earned more money for his pea crop if it was clean – free from thistles.)

Lesson 25: Matthew 13:24-46



A thistle

© https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9f/Milk_thistle_flowerhead.jpg?utm_source=simple.wikipedia.org&utm_campaign=index&utm_content=original



So. The family members and I each grabbed a bucket, formed a loose line at the edge of the pea field, and carefully walked the length of the field breaking-off any thistle heads we found. Both the sweet peas and thistles were ripe and it was easy for us ‘farmers’ to tell the difference. We didn’t pull-up any plants by the roots; we simply broke the thistle stalk. It was monotonous, but vital work. (By the way, ripe sweet peas eaten from pods in the field are unbelievably scrumptious!)

Why were there thistles in my farmer-friend’s fields? Thistles seem to grow anywhere from roadside ditches to forest edges to prairie grasslands to banks of streams. God gave thistles the ability to seemingly float on the slightest puff of a wind and thistle seeds are deposited hither and yon upon the whim of those gentle breezes.



Thistledown taking flight

© <https://c8.alamy.com/zooms/9/3260fa546dda4197ac7d92f02a73313a/ajwfyva.jpg>

Lesson 25: Matthew 13:24-46

Day 2



Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁸ " 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

Q7. *While you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them:* Why is Jesus concerned about accidentally “root[ing] up the wheat”?

Q8. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) *First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn:* Are you a “weed” or are you the “wheat” (the fruit)?

Weed? Wheat? How can I improve?

John 15: 5-6 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

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Jesus Tells the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Q9. *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed*: How would you describe a “mustard seed”?



A mustard seed perched on a fingertip

© <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTpzOvKKI9UiTlblVApXXRRSCKKHlUeLRHh8whxgxGY0UA&s=10>

Q10. *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed*: Why did Jesus describe the “kingdom of heaven . . . like a [tiny] mustard seed”?

 The commentators at GotQuestionsMinistries provided this explanation.

“Israelites [listening to Jesus] would have known exactly what Jesus meant by the ‘kingdom of heaven’. They understood that it was promised in Scripture, and it would be glorious.

“Now Jesus finishes the comparison, explaining that glory is exactly how the process will end. That tiny mustard seed grows into the largest of all the garden plants. Though the tree sometimes resembles a bush, it can also grow as tall as 8–12 feet high. The tree grows large enough to host nests for birds.

“Christ depicts the kingdom of God as starting very small, then growing to enormous size. In the context of garden plants of that era, this was exactly the role mustard played: a notably tiny beginning with a notably massive result. Spiritually, Jesus is teaching that the kingdom will not appear in full glory out of nothing. It will begin tiny, in the hearts of Jesus' disciples, and it will grow from there as more and more people come to faith in Jesus. Eventually, Jesus will return and establish His glorious kingdom on earth [[Revelation 21:1-22:5](#)], populated by all those who swore allegiance to the King.

“Critics have occasionally made much of Jesus referring to mustard as ‘the smallest of all seeds’. Among all the plants on earth, and even in the middle east, there are those with even tinier seeds. Such complaints miss the purpose of the parable, and its audience. Jesus' listeners understood His meaning as much as a modern person would understand an expression such as ‘my brother is the biggest football player, but he's sensitive’. Literalism is not the point—

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the contrast is what's being implied.

“Further, literature of that era would often use mustard seeds as the go-to metaphor for smallness, much as modern English speakers often do with ‘a grain of sand’.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/13/Matthew-13-32.html>. Retrieved: 2026-09-26.]

³³ He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Matthew 13:33 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

He spoke another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven [fermented dough], which a woman took and hid in three sata [a Greek term for a Hebrew measure, totaling about 48 lb. or 22 kg of flour] of flour until it was all leavened."

 The New American Standard Bible (NASB) version (↑) quantifies the “*large amount of flour*” (↑) used in our standard New International Version (NIV-1984). Frankly, I cannot imagine trying to mix – by hand – nearly fifty-pounds of flour! I cannot imagine the strength, the endurance of this baker! No power mixers! Based on Jesus’s description, I assume that water, yeast, and possibly other ingredients were added to the nearly fifty (dry) pounds of flour, thereby increasing the weight of the dough the baker was mixing, kneading.

Q11. *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast*: Why is “*yeast*” added to bread?

 “In bread making, the literal purpose of yeast (referred to as “leaven” in the Bible) is to ferment sugars in the dough, producing carbon dioxide gas that makes the bread rise, expand, and become light and fluffy.” [©2026 Google. Summary provided by Google AI. Keywords: “Bible what is the purpose of yeast in bread making?” Retrieved: 2026-09-27.]

 What is the texture/taste of unleavened bread? “It is flat, hard, dry, and crisp like a cracker, or dense and firm depending on how thick it is baked, because it lacks yeast or rising agents to make it soft and airy” [©2026 Google. Summary provided by Google AI. Keywords: “Bible how does unleavened bread taste?” Retrieved: 2026-09-27.]

Q12. *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast*: In some of Jesus’s teaching, yeast represents evil (e.g., [Matthew 16:6, 11-12](#); [Mark 8:15](#)). In this verse, does “*yeast*” represent good? Or evil?

Good? Evil? Thoughts?

Q13. *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast . . . mixed into a large amount of flour*: Who (or what) might the “*yeast*” represent?

Q14. *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast . . . mixed into a large amount of flour*: Who (or what) might the “*large amount of flour*” represent?

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“In this metaphor, a small amount of leaven is mixed into or "hidden" inside three measures of flour. This would have been about 50 pounds, or 23 kilograms. This would create enough bread to feed about 100 people. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to the leaven, the agent that causes the flour to grow into abundant bread.

“Again, Jesus' description of the kingdom of heaven as a small thing that grows over time would not have fit the expectations most Israelites' held for the promised kingdom. Jesus is showing that the kingdom will begin in the hearts of His followers and only eventually grow to become the glorious kingdom the people were hoping for.”

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Day 3

Jesus' Parables Fulfill Prophecy

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." [Psalm 78:2]

Q15. Verses 34 and 35 seem to be a repetition of verses we have already discussed. Why did Matthew, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, repeat this explanation?

Q16. (Verses 34 and 35) Generally speaking, what two distinct groups has Jesus been teaching?

①	<u>D</u>	<u> </u>	<u>S</u>	<u>C</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>L</u>	<u> </u>	<u>S</u>
②	<u>P</u>	<u>H</u>	<u> </u>	<u>R</u>	<u> </u>	<u>S</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>S</u>

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Q17. (Extra credit 😊) Why was Jesus so cautious/guarded in His teachings? After performing a few healings, why didn't He just flat-out state to everyone in the audience that "I am the prophesied Messiah. I am the Son of God. If you believe in me, you will be with me in Paradise; if you do not believe that I am the Messiah, you will be judged and sentenced to Hell. The choice is yours. My work is now done and I'm returning to the righthand of our Father in heaven." And . . . poof . . . He's gone. (He never has to experience separation from His Father; He never suffers; He is never gravely injured and killed.) (Be brief.)

Day 4

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

Q18. *Then he left the crowd and went into the house:* Why did He go "into the house"?

³⁷He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.
³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ^{39a} and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

Q19. *The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man:* Who "is the Son of Man"?

Daniel 7:13–14 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of

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man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ 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.

Q20. *The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man:* What does “the good seed” represent?

Q21. *The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom:* Who or what does “the sons of the kingdom” represent?

Circle one: Religious leaders? All Believers? Male Believers, only? Female Believers, only? Nonbelievers? Missionaries? Other?

Q22. *The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom:* In the phrase “the sons of the kingdom” what is Jesus calling us Believers? Is this significant terminology?

Romans 8:15^b [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:23 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Q23. *The good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one:* As you think about Jesus’s Words, ① what are the two categories He mentions? ② In which category are fence-sitters and those who haven’t taken the time to choose and those who believe that “God is love and will not condemn me” and those who say “My good is better than hers” and “Of course, I’ll go to Heaven – I’m a good person!”?

① What are the two categories?

② In which category are fence-sitters, etc?

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

^{39b} The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

Q24. *The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels*: To what does the phrase "*the end of the age*" refer?

Q25. *The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels*: Do we, who believe, know the date and time "*the end of the age*" will occur?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Matthew 24:36 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

[Also [Mark 13:32](#)]

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

Q26. *The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels*: If a person proclaims, "The Holy Spirit came to me in a dream and said that the '*end of the age*' will occur next year on June 31st!" [pick a date], should I believe their revelation?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q27. *The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels*: If a religious movement supports these politicians or those actions because the leaders in the movement prophesy that it may hasten the "*the end of the age*" (or Christ's Second Coming), is it Biblical that I support this movement?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV-1984]

[The Great Commission]

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

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Romans 10:13-15 [NIV-1984]

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Q28. *The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels*: If I knew the date and time of “*the end of the age*”, is it human nature to redouble my evangelism efforts? Or might I slack-off?

Redouble? Slack-off? Something else?

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

Q29. (Apologetics) *The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil*: I thought Jesus (“*the Son of Man*”) is the Judge. Why use “*angels*”? (Does Christ Jesus want to dirty His hands, again?)

Q30. *The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil*: In this world, how is “agent” legally defined?



Definition: Agent

One who agrees and is authorized to act on behalf of another, a principal, to legally bind an individual in particular business transactions with third parties pursuant to an agency relationship. [West's Encyclopedia of American Law, edition 2. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved. <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/agent>. Retrieved: 2026-10-04.]

Q31. *The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil*: If every evil sinner is weeded-out, who is left? (Who does the wheat represent?)



May I make this observation? These Matthew StudySheets have referenced the Great White Throne Judgment ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)) so often that we all should have this passage memorized. It is normally my nature to apologize for repetition, but I will not. The Great White Throne Judgment is real and it will occur.

Our certain knowledge that it will occur should ‘put a fire under each of us’ to seriously perform Jesus’s admonition of the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:18-20](#) ↑); we should redouble our efforts to preach, teach, and outreach!

I think one of the reasons God has kept the date and time of “*the end of the age*” secret, is due to our human nature – He knows us. If I knew the date and time, I would tend to shrug my shoulders, claim that I’ve done all I

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could, and wait in my recliner for the Big Reveal. As Jesus said in several of His many illustrations, we should always be ready, we should always be prepared, and we should always be working for the Kingdom. See [Matthew 25:13](#); [Revelation 16:15](#); [Luke 21:36](#); [Mark 13:35-37](#); [Luke 12:40](#); and [Matthew 24:44](#).

Christ Jesus stated that He wants all to be saved. We should evangelize as much as we are able out of obedience, out of love for our Savior, out of love for those who will otherwise perish.

1 Timothy 2:4 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

God wants all people to be saved. And he wants everyone to know the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Ezekiel 33:11 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[God's desire that all should be saved is not limited to the New Testament. God lamented over His people Israel back in the time of Ezekiel the Prophet.]

As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?

Day 6

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42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Q32. ***They will throw them into the fiery furnace:*** Please read [Daniel 2-3](#). [Daniel 3:25](#) reads, “[The Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar] answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’” Who is the fourth man?

Q33. ***They will throw them into the fiery furnace:*** The three Jewish men Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fiery furnace unharmed. Whereas, in verse 42, the angels “*will throw them into the fiery furnace*”. ① What saved the three Jewish men? ② What condemned the “*They . . . them*” in verse 42?

① What saved the three Jewish men?

② What condemned the “They” in verse 42?

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Q34. *They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*: How do you describe “weeping and gnashing of teeth”?

Celebration? Extreme distress? Happiness? Excruciating pain? Other?



Weeping and gnashing of teeth:

“This phrase conveys a vivid image of intense suffering and humiliation. In ancient times, the act of grinding teeth with gravel would symbolize extreme distress and discomfort. The imagery suggests a forced consumption of something harsh and painful, reflecting the deep anguish experienced by the speaker. This can be seen as a metaphor for the severe trials and tribulations faced by the people of Jerusalem during the Babylonian siege and subsequent exile. The grinding of teeth is also a biblical expression of anguish and despair, as seen in other scriptures like Matthew 8:12, where it describes the weeping and gnashing of teeth in outer darkness. This phrase highlights the physical and emotional torment endured by the prophet Jeremiah, who is traditionally considered the author of Lamentations, as he laments the destruction of Jerusalem.” [© 2004 - 2026 by Bible Hub. All rights reserved. <https://biblehub.com/study/lamentations/3-16.htm#:~:text=The%20grinding%20of%20teeth%20is,laments%20the%20destruction%20of%20Jerusalem>. Retrieved: 2026-10-06.]

Lamentations 3:16 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

The Lord broke my teeth with gravel. He crushed me into the dirt.

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

Q35. *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father*: Who are “the righteous”?

Q36. *He who has ears, let him hear*: This is a curious statement. What does it mean?



See also [Matthew 11:15](#); [Matthew 13:9](#); [Matthew 13:43](#). Contrast these verses to [Matthew 13:16](#).

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Jesus Tells the Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Q37. ***Treasure hidden in a field:*** Were banks and credit unions commonplace in Jesus's time?

Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

Q38. ***Treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field:*** Based on the text, how wealthy was the man between the time he gave all his money to the former landowner and finding the treasure, again?



The commentators at GotQuestionsMinistries provided this insight.

"By rights, such accidentally discovered treasure would belong to the owner of the land. Local laws and customs seem to suggest that so long as that treasure remained buried, it was considered part of the field. If it was removed from the earth, it was the property of whomever owned the land. In other words, the treasure could not simply be taken — that would be theft. However, if the field's owner sold the land, he would also be selling any buried valuables. The new owner would be legally free to dig up and take such treasure. The point [of this parable] is not [a] detailing of property law, however.

"Christ's message is that the kingdom of heaven is worth trading for everything a person owns, in order to come into 'possession' of it." [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/13/Matthew-13-44.html>. Retrieved: 2026-10-06.]

Q39. ***The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field . . . he . . . sold all he had and bought that field:*** From Christ's viewpoint how important is the "kingdom of heaven" to a person?

Scale: Of critical importance = 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - 0 = zero importance. Why?

Matthew 19:21-22 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

[A rich young man asked to follow Jesus.]

²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

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Jesus Tells the Parable of the Pearl

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

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