

# Questions for Gospel Harmony #53

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Matthew 13.24-30; 36-43

1. What are tares? Who sowed the tares among the wheat? Why would a person do this? Were the servants able to identify that tares had been sown? What did the servants ask the owner of the field? What was his instruction? (Matthew 13.24-30)
  
2. To whom did Jesus explain the parable? Who is “he who sowed good seed”? How does He accomplish this sowing? What is “the field”? What are the “good seeds” and the “tares”? Who is “the enemy”? How does he accomplish his sowing? What is the harvest? Explain the phrase: “the end of the age.” Who are the reapers? How does the gathering and destruction of the tares symbolize what will happen at the “end of the age”? Where will “the things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness” be cast? What will happen to the righteous? What is the overall point of this parable? (Matthew 13.36-43)

**Special Question:** Historically, many have used the parable of the tares to argue against the practice of church discipline or the condemnation of religious error or immorality. Are these interpretations problematic? If so, why should they be rejected?