* What are parables?
* Why did Jesus use them so much?
  + v10-17, 34-35
  + Reveals truth to those who are hungry, and conceals it form those who are lazy or blinded by hatred
  + There is a ‘givenness’ of revelation when a person understands who Jesus is
* What themes do you see coming through the parables?
  + What the kingdom of heaven is like!
    - Expect trouble, weeds, birds
* Where do you see yourself in the parable of the sower and the soils (v1-9, 18-23)?
  + As the soil?
  + As the sower?
  + Where is Jesus in the parable?
  + Discussion of sower vs. harvester?
* What question does the parable of the weeds address (v24-30, 36-43)?
  + What answer does it give?
  + What does it means for the kingdom of heaven to be like this?
* What question does parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast address (v31-33)?
  + What does this tell us about what significance looks like?
  + What relevance does the image of yeast have for the listeners?
* Have a look at the characters in the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl (v44-45). How are they different and how are they similar?
  + Rich vs. poor. Searching vs. accident.
  + What does this tell us about the value of the kingdom of heaven, and who it is for?
* Why does the block of teaching finish with the parable of the net (v47-50)?
  + What is the practical implication of the parable?
* What would have been the significance of the death of JtB for Matthew’s original readers?
  + And for us?
* What is the relevance of the feeding of a multitude in a remote place?
* How does the walking on water develop what we already know from the earlier story of the stilling the storm?
* Both the Pharisees and Jesus believed in God’s prior grace to them. What is the fundamental difference between them?
  + Precision in law vs. loving obedience
  + Whenever we see the parables we have to ask where we are like them in our worship?
* What significance is there in the move Jesus makes to Gentile territory in 15:21?
* What’s the difference of this story to the feeding of the 5000?
  + Why do the disciples still not believe Jesus can do it?