



Chapter & verse – Fiona Thomas (page 24)

Read Matthew 13:51-52, followed by Fiona Thomas' article.

1. 'A scribe has responsibility for passing on tradition,' says Fiona in the article's second paragraph. Who preserves the traditions in your family? Are there tradition keepers in society more generally? If so, who might those people be?
2. In the biblical text, Jesus refers to scribes 'trained for the kingdom of heaven'. What tasks might training for the Kingdom involve for Christians today?
3. The sixth paragraph of the article says that, like 'the right kind of scribe', the inner core of Jesus' disciples 'listen to his teaching, take it in, and act upon it'. How might we do the same?
4. Fiona states that: 'The true disciple is the one who teaches both by word and by example.' Have there been examples of this kind of good teaching in your life? If so, what difference did it make?
5. Fiona talks of a 'we always do it this way' view in her sixth paragraph, suggesting that such a view 'has to yield to using what we know and what we've learned to do things differently'. Do you agree that old knowledge must be used to do new things? Have you had experience of this?
6. Jesus says that the master 'brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old'. In your experience, do churches value both old and new? How can both tradition and innovation have a place in church life?
7. Fiona's final paragraph calls on Christians to 'offer ancient wisdom to new realities'. What do you understand this to mean? What kinds of wisdom should the Church be sharing?

For further reflection 'My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.' Psalm 45:1

Reform

NEWS COMMENT INSPIRATION DEBATE

Fiona Thomas Chapter & verse

'The Church is both old and new. We are asked to offer ancient wisdom to new realities'

There are only a few who have been asked for the English of wisdom in the Church of England... I am one of them. I am called to be a scribe.

I have had a lifetime which is not a lifetime. It has been a lifetime of learning and teaching. I have been asked to write a book which will be a part of the Church's life. I have been asked to write a book which will be a part of the Church's life. I have been asked to write a book which will be a part of the Church's life.

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Prayer: Father, we give thanks for the people who taught us your ways and for all those who passed traditions on down the line to us. Help us to see how we can understand and apply those things in the world we live in today, so that we might pass on a living, treasured tradition to those who come after. Amen