

The Parable of the Dragnet



Matthew 13:47-50

○ **Review Lessons Taught:**

- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

1. What is a parable?

- **It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truths.**
- **The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- **Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**

2. The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

3. The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)

4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)

5. The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)

6. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)

7. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price” (Matthew 13:45-46)

The Parable of the Dragnet

Matthew 13:47-50

- Jesus again uses a parable to describe the Kingdom of heaven and the future events that shall take place in the world at the end of the Tribulation period. (Matthew 13:47-50)
- A. The purpose of this parable is to remind every believer of Four Things: (Matthew 13:47-50)
1. The Church Mission. (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 19:10, Luke 14:23)
 2. The Church Mandate. (John 4:34-38)
 3. The Church Message. (Mark 16:15-16, Romans 1:16-17, 10:9-10,13, 1Corinthians 15:1-4)
 4. The Church Ministry. (2 Corinthians 4:1-6, 5:18-20)
- B. The perspective of this parable is to remind us that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, redemption and eternal life. (John 5:24, 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Corinthians 3:11)
1. We must share the gospel message of Jesus Christ.
 2. We must continue to point people to Jesus Christ.
 3. We must “urge or warn” them that Jesus Christ is soon to come.
 4. We must continue to “cast or throw” out the net. In other words, keep sharing Christ’s Kingdom message, and never allow anyone or anything discourage you.
- The joy is that many will be brought into the Kingdom of heaven from every nation, tribe, people and language. (Revelation 7:9-10, 1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
- C. Jesus reveals through this parable some of the most essential elements of the kingdom of Heaven. (vs. 47-48)
1. The “net” represents Christ’s gospel message.
 2. The “fishermen” represents Jesus Christ and His true followers.
 3. The “fish” represents both believers and unbelievers who are caught in the net.

- D. Jesus knew the disciples could easily relate to this parable since some of them were fishermen by trade.**
- 1. The kingdom of Heaven is like a large net cast into the sea that collects every kind of fish. (vs. 47)**
 - 2. The large “net” is cast into the sea...” (vs. 47)**
 - **The large “net” is the gospel of the kingdom.**
 - 3. The large net that is “cast” represents kingdom believers who carry Christ’s message of love, hope, forgiveness, redemption and the promise of eternal life.**
 - 4. The “sea” represents the world and all the depths of darkness within it.**
 - a. Jesus Christ is the God-Man. He was 100% God and 100% Man, who was sent by God into the world to save humanity from the curse of sin which was death. (John 3:16-17, Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24)**
 - **Through Jesus Christ mankind can be forgiven of their sins, receive eternal life and live in the presence of God forever.**
 - **Without Jesus Christ mankind will remain lost and die in their sins and trespasses, receive eternal judgment and be separated from God forever.**
 - b. Jesus tells His disciples to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. (Matthew 4:12-20, Mark 16:15-16)**
 - **Jesus Christ’s true followers are known as “fishers of men.” We are to “cast the net” of the gospel of the kingdom into the “sea” known as the world.**
 - 5. The “net” gathers some of every kind. (vs. 47-48)**
 - a. It refers to a “net” that is dragged over the bottom of the sea with the ends being drawn together trapping the fish.**
 - b. The word “fish” is not used but it implies that people are what Jesus is referring to.**
 - c. Notice again, that the “dragnet” captures all kinds of people.**
 - **All races, all nationalities, and all tribes.**
 - **All will have an importance choice to make.**

- The gospel of the Kingdom will be “preached or proclaimed” both to the Jews and the Greeks or Gentile (heathens) nations. (1 Corinthians 1:18-24, Romans 2:1-11)
- All ears will hear the gospel of the Kingdom before Christ returns and no one shall have an excuse. (Matthew 24:14, John 5:28-29, Ephesians 1:20)
- All eyes will see and will witness Jesus Christ’s return. (Matthew 24:21-44, Revelation 1:7-8)
- Jesus Christ will come in the clouds and call all His followers to meet Him in the air. I believe the Church will be raptured out of here before the Tribulation. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

E. In this parable Jesus describes (2) two categories of “people” gathered in the net. (vs. 48)

1. The Good (the righteous, true believers, those who received Christ).
2. The Bad (the wicked, unrighteous, unbelievers, those who rejected Christ).
 - a. He “gathered the good” which meant that the “good” were stored in vessels or containers.
 - The “good” represents true believers in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - The “good” are born-again, Spirit-filled believers in the earth. (John 3:24, Ephesians 1:7, 13-14, 2:8-10)
 - b. The “bad” are cast away or thrown away. (vs. 48)
 - The “bad” represents unbelievers who reject Jesus Christ in the world.
 - The “bad” represent those who heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, but refused to receive Him into their heart.
 - c. Both the Good and the Bad were separated once they got to shore. What did the fishermen do with the good verses the bad? (vs. 48)

F. The parable of the dragnet is compared to the parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:1-23)

- The Sower represents Jesus Christ who was sown into the world to die for the sins of all humanity.
 - The Sower also represents True believers who sow the seed called The Word of God or the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - The Soil represents the hearts of the individual hearer and the spiritual state of those in the world.
 - The Seed fell on various types of soils (hard, stony, thorns, good ground). This meant that the results would be different. (vs. 8, 23)
- a. The condition of the heart will determine the size of the crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. (vs. 8)
 - b. The condition of the heart will determine the Word or the Gospel of the Kingdom's effectiveness in a person's life. (vs. 23)

G. Jesus gave reference to the word "good and bad;" what did He mean? (vs. 48)

1. The Good (the righteous, true believers).

- a. Jesus was not referring to a person's inner goodness, good works or deeds, moral character or claim of worthiness.
 - b. Jesus was referring to a person to whom the righteousness of Jesus Christ has been imputed – that is what makes them righteous in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:21-24)
- There is a difference between repenting and being converted.
1. Repent means to change one's mind. It is both a mental and spiritual desire to change from being unrighteous to being righteous. (Romans 10:9-10)
 2. Converted means to change one's way. It means "turning or spiritually turning" away from sin and exercise faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19)
- You turn from idols (people, places or things), and turn to God and live for His Son Jesus Christ.
 - You turn from a lifestyle of sinful behavior, and to a lifestyle of serving and pleasing God.

- a. Jesus knew Satan would continue his attempt to “sift” Peter as wheat. (Luke 22:31-32)
 1. The word “sift” means to shake or break apart.
 - Satan would make every attempt to “shake or break apart” Peter from exercising his faith in Jesus Christ. (vs. 31)
 - Satan would make every attempt to “shake or break apart” Peter from being a true witness for Jesus Christ.
 - Satan would make every attempt to “shake or break apart” Peter from believing to doubting what Jesus Christ has done in his life.
 2. Jesus knew after Peter was converted, he then could strengthen others. (vs. 32)
 - Jesus knew that once Peter was converted, he would no longer be the same person that denied ever knowing and being around Him. (Matthew 26:69-75, John 13:31-38, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:55-62)
 3. The local church must be a place for “perfecting or equipping”, and not a place for entertaining the people of God. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 4. The person mind must be renewed with the Word of God in order to mature spiritually and become an effective witness for Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:11-13, 12:1-2)
 - The word “reckon” means to consider or to “put to one’s account.” (vs. 11)
 - It means to consider yourself dead to sin, but alive to Jesus Christ.
 - (vs. 12) – “do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey its lusts.”
 - Notice “do not let” – You must do something! You must not allow it to happen. Don’t allow it to happen to you.
 - (vs. 13) – “do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...”
 - Notice “do not present” – You must do something! You must not allow it to happen! God will not make you live right!
 - “You must not “offer or yield” your members as instruments (weapons or tools of wickedness)” of unrighteousness or sinful behavior.
 - (vs. 13) – “but present yourself to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

- But you must “offer or yield” yourself to God members as being alive in Christ Jesus and your members as instruments (weapons or tools) of righteousness to God. (Ephesians 2:1)
 - When a person is “converted” their life becomes a weapon or tool of righteousness that glorifies and honors God.
5. When a person is “converted” his/her life is used to love, heal, encourage, and reconcile men and women to Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
- a. The word “reconcile” means to be brought back or restored into the fullness.
- Jesus Christ “reconciled” (brought back or restored) us back to God’s original purpose and design.
 - Jesus Christ “brought back or restored” everything that Adam lost in the garden of Eden through his disobedience to God (Romans 5:19-21)
- b. Through Jesus Christ mankind can now be “reconciled” to God or to be one with God again.
- To be at peace with God and no longer be alienated from being in His presence and having true fellowship with Him.
2. The Bad (the wicked, unrepentant, unrighteous).
- a. There are those who are wicked and evil, who are seeds of Satan that he has sown into the field (the world). (Matthew 13:37-39)
- This doesn’t mean that every person is wicked and evil, or morally a bad person. The reality is, good people will go to hell too.
 - There are those who will refuse to repent, believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him into their hearts as Savior and Lord over their lives.
- b. The point that Jesus is making that the “net,” while drawn, will pull in people for Jesus Christ and other reasons than for Jesus Christ. (John 12:30)
- H. The privilege and punishment revealed in this parable. (vs. 49-50)
- Jesus explains what this parable means.
1. The “net” is also a symbol of the end of the world.

2. The “angels” will come forth to execute judgment on behalf of Jesus Christ.
3. The “dragnet” when dropped and pulled through the waters catches everything in its path.
 - The “dragnet” cannot distinguish between the good fish and the bad fish.
 - The “dragnet” main function is to gather both the good and the bad up.
4. The “separation” will occur once the “net” is full. Who will do the separation?
 - Jesus reveals “when” the separation will happen – “at the end of the age.” (vs. 49)
 - Jesus reveals “who” will do the separation – “the angels of God will come forth and separate the bad (wicked, unrighteous, unbelievers) from the good (righteous, believers).” (vs. 49)
5. Notice God will not leave it up to any individual, church, or any religious group to do the separation. Why?
 - God is the only one who is Infallible.
 - God is the Righteous Judge. (Psalm 7:11, Acts 17:29-31)
 - God cannot lie. (Hebrews 6:18)
 - God cannot be tempted with sin or evil. (James 1:13-15)
 - God is perfect in all His ways. (Psalm 18:30, Deuteronomy 32:3-4)
 - God is love. (1 John 4:7-8, John 3:16-17)
 - God is merciful and gracious. (Psalm 86:15, 100:5, 103:8-14, 145:8-9, 100:5, Ephesians 2:2:4-9, 1 Peter 1:3, 2 Peter 3:9, Titus 3:5)
 - God does not show partiality. (Deuteronomy 10:17, Acts 10:34-35, Ephesians 6:9)
 - Man-kind are fallible beings due to sin. (Psalm 51:5, Genesis 8:21, Proverbs 22:15)
 - The word “fallible” means liable to err, imperfect, make mistakes, can be very critical, subject to poor judgement, poor decisions, and poor choices.

- Jesus' words are very strong and powerful toward those who criticize. (Matthew 7:1-6)
 1. Jesus says, "Judge not or do not judge, that you be not judged. (vs. 1)
 - The word "judge" means to criticize, condemn, fault-finding.
 - Jesus warns against people creating their own standard and what is acceptable, then measure everyone by it.
 2. Jesus calls them hypocrites! Because they measure people by their own standards in which they themselves don't live by. (vs. 2-5)
 - They are quick to condemn others for their sins, while disregarding the sin in their own lives.
 - What is the reason that people tend to judge and criticize?
 - To boost their own self-image (self-righteous).
 - The pleasure of seeing someone fall short.
 - To cause hurt of revenge.
 - To make themselves feel better about their own short-comings and failures.
 - To justify their own behaviors by pointing out the failures and short-comings of others.
 - Those who have a judgmental spirit, who pass judgement against everyone, will stand before the True Judge Jesus Christ. (vs. 2-6)
 - The same standard you use, will be used to judge you when you stand before Jesus Christ. (vs. 2)

- There is a difference between spiritual discernment and having a condemning spirit. (1 John 4:1-3, John 8:1-11)
 1. The word "discern" means to test, try, judge, know, prove, approve, and examine.
 2. The word "condemn" means to highly criticize, to denounce, to determine unfit, to pronounce guilty, and to pass judgement. (John 8:1-11)
 - God forgives the humble and repentant sinner, but He shall judge the judgmental and criticizing person. (1 Peter 5:5-7)
 - Those who show no mercy shall not receive mercy. (James 2:13)

- Those who grumble against each other or condemning one another. The True Judge is standing at the door! He both watching and looking! (James 5:9)
 - The believer must carry Christ's gospel message to the lost sinners in the world. He must carry it with love, compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness. (John 3:16-17, Ephesians 4:31-32)
 - Never allow his/her heart to become polluted with bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and malice.
 - Must be kind and show compassion to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.
3. We should note that the only time the bad will be in the presence of the good is now. (vs. 49)
- a. There will be a specific eternal destination called Heaven for the good (righteous, believers) that Jesus promise those who surrender their life to Him. (John 14:1-6, Revelation 21:1-7, 22:12-14)
- Believers will inherit a kingdom, a new heaven and earth where God will rule and reign.
 - Believers will be given eternal life and given the glorious privilege of being citizens in God's kingdom both now and throughout eternity.
- b. There will be a specific eternal destination called Hell for the bad (wicked, unbelievers, unrepentant) for those who refuse to surrender their life to Jesus Christ. (vs. 49-50, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8, 22:14-15)
- 1) Jesus illustrates the terrible truth of the second death of man's final judgement, being separated eternally from God forever. (Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)
- 2) Jesus teaches that hell is a real place that was prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)
- 3) Jesus warns that all men who chooses to reject Him, and choose not to follow after God shall spend eternity in Hell. (John 8:24, Revelation 20:11-15)
- 4) Jesus gives a description of Hell. (Mark 9:43-49)
- Hell is the same as the lake of fire or fire of Hell. It is eternal and unquenchable fire. It is a place of torture and torment. (Mark 9:43-49, Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 14-15,)

- Hell doesn't include second chances. God's Judgement will be final. There will be weeping (deep regret), and gnashing of teeth (severe torture and pain) (Matthew 8:12)
- What does the Bible reveal about those who shall not inherit the kingdom of God? (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- Paul says, "Do not be deceived." (vs. 9)
 1. God is righteous and only those who are made righteous through Jesus Christ shall spend eternity with Him.
 2. The wicked, unbeliever and unrighteous person who practice these sins shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (vs. 9-10)
- Paul says, "And such were some of you..." (vs. 11)
- 3. Paul remind the Corinthian believers that some of them at one-point used to live in sin, but now through the power of Jesus Christ their life has been changed.
 - The power of the Cross of Jesus Christ and His gospel message (Romans 1:16, 6:23, 10:9, Ephesians 1:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - The word "wash" means to wash off or to wash away. When a person surrenders their life to Jesus Christ their sins are washed away. (Titus 3:5-6)
 - The word "sanctified" means holiness, to make holy, or to set apart. Through Jesus Christ a believer is made holy, and set apart for God's use only and not for the world. (1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:21, Hebrews 2:11, 10:10, 1Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23)
 - The word "justified" means to be made righteous in the sight of God. God takes a person's faith in Jesus Christ and count or credit as righteousness. (Romans 3:20-24, 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 4. Jesus Christ is coming again. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - a. The return of Jesus Christ will not only bring blessings to believers, it will also bring judgement upon unbelievers.
 - There are Five Things that believers can be comforted and assured of: (vs. 13-18)
 1. All believers who are alive and remain will rise and meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air.

2. All will witness the glory, majesty and power of God being displayed in the heavens and earth below.
3. All will witness the most glorious union and fellowship among living believers when they meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air. (2 Timothy 2:11-14)
4. All believers who are living when Jesus Christ returns will receive a glorified body – a body that transformed, without sin, and will never decay and deteriorate. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58, 2 Corinthians 5:1, 8-10)
5. All believers will be forever with Lord Jesus Christ throughout all eternity.
 - What did Apostle Paul share with them in his letter that would ease all their concerns? (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
1. Do not be ignorant or uninformed concerning those who have fallen asleep. (vs 13) Why was Paul concerned? (vs. 13)
 - Paul knew that their ignorance toward what was true for those who die in the Lord Jesus Christ could lead to:
 - A believer becoming hopeless.
 - A believer becoming doubtful.
 - A believer becoming restless.
 - A believer who becomes hopeless, doubtful, and restless, will lead to both wrongful thinking and living. (John 8:32)
 - Paul reminds them that believers do not grieve like the unbelievers in the world who have no hope. (vs. 13)
 - As believers we have a hope that goes beyond the grave.
 - Death is not the end for believers. Death is only the vehicle that God uses to transition us from this life to life eternal in His presence. (2 Corinthians 5:8-9)
 - The believer knows that their love one who dies in the Lord, shall too arise and meet our Savior Jesus Christ.
 - There is no hope for the unbelievers of the world who live and die without the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 8:36)
 - Believers should have an unwavering faith and confidence in Jesus Christ death and resurrection. (vs. 14-15)