

Parable of the Net
Matthew 13:47-50

Elements of the Parable

- 1) A Net
- 2) Fish
- 3) Men

v. 47-48

A Net Thrown Into the Sea

- Here Jesus continues His teaching on the nature of the Kingdom of God.
- Each parable that He has used shows us a different part of the kingdom.
- Some of them refer to how the kingdom started, how it will influence, and even how it will judge.
- In this parable we see the picture of fisherman out on a boat and they cast their net into the sea in order to catch fish.

Dragnet

- This parable is often referred to as the parable of the dragnet.
- The type of fishing that you and I do is quite different from what these guys did.
- Depending on what you're fishing for you may have a hook, a black rubber worm, and a spincast reel.
- In those days they would have utilized a net.
- This net would have had weights and it would spread out wide once it was thrown.
- When it landed in the water the weights would sink to the bottom.
- They would pull on the rope and the weights would collapse from the bottom therefore trapping whatever is in the net.

Every Kind of Fish

- Due to the nature of the tool used, targeting a specific type of fish was out of the question.
- If I want to catch a bass I would go to a pond or a lake with my rod and reel with black worms and a bullet weight.
- I would cast into an area where a fallen tree may be and try to set a hook in a largemouth bass.
- This type of fishing is targeted.
- I'm not going to snag a small brim or carp on a black worm.
- I'm also not trying to catch a ton to sell them.
- These fishermen were in it for the money.
- They were not interested in catching one fish at a time and so the net was the most efficient.
- The problem with this is that you cannot see what's under the water.
- They would toss their net in and gather a whole harvest of fish.
- Some fish may be bass, catfish, carp, brim, etc.
- Instead of trying to separate the fish by species while in the water they would drag them to shore.

Picture of Evangelism

- Evangelism is the act of taking the *Good News* to the world.
- The Greek word for good news is "Euangelion".
- That's where we get the word evangelism from.
- The picture that we see here of casting a wide net is the work of evangelism.

- We cast the net of the Gospel as wide as it will go and we gather as many as we can.
- We are not to treat evangelism as if we are trying to catch a big largemouth bass or catfish.
- We aren't targeting, we are instead casting a wide net for all to hear the Gospel.
- What happens when we have people who claim to have faith in Christ but aren't actually regenerate?
- This parable is a parallel of the Parable of the Wheat and Tares.
- We are taught there that instead of uprooting the tares we are to let them grow together and then the reapers will sort them out on judgment day.
- In verse 48 we find the same thing.

Good Fish and Bad Fish

- When such a wide net is cast there will undoubtedly be fish that are not good for anything other than bait.
- The fishermen would get the loaded net to the shore and then they would proceed to sort the good fish from the bad.
- The good fish is what they would take to the markets and sell or take back to their homes to eat.
- The bad fish they would simply throw away.
- Maybe some would still be alive and they would toss them back into the water but most of them would have simply been discarded or used for bait.
- As with all parables, Jesus uses elements to compare things.
- Here He is comparing people.
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v. 49-50

Judgment Day

- Some use this parable to say that the different races make up the “fish of every kind” but I don’t believe this to be the case.
- Biblically speaking, there are only two types of people.
- We tend to look through the lens of the kaleidoscope when we think of humanity but in the eyes of God there are only the lost and the saved.
- Galatians 3:28
- We are told that for those who are in Christ there is no distinction.
- Either we are saved or we are lost.
- Nothing else will matter on judgment day.
- Jesus uses the analogy of the fishermen and the fish to tell the future judgment in which the angels will separate the evil from the righteous.

Evil and Righteous

- What is the difference between evil and the righteous?
- The only difference between these two groups is Christ.
- We aren’t judged against our own righteousness.
- We will be judged against the righteousness of Christ therefore we all will fall woefully short.
- The righteousness of the evil is their own.
- It will not be enough for salvation.
- The righteousness of the righteous is the very righteousness of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:22

The Close of the Age

- Whenever we see the phrase “end of the age”, we must be very careful to understand what this is.
- Sometimes the end of the age is the ending of the Jewish Age in A.D. 70.
- Sometimes the end of the age is the ending of the world in judgment.
- The way we can tell is in the context of the passage and the language that is used.
- This parable is a mirror of the parable of the wheat and tares.
- I believe this parable is talking about the judgment of the last day.
- There are certainly times in the Gospels where Jesus is referring to the end of the Jewish Age but I just don't believe this is one of them.