

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MATTHEW 13:47-53
DECEMBER 4, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

1. The parables of Jesus direct our attention to the kingdom of heaven, contextually, the church.
 - a) The parable of the tares teaches us about the influence of the world. (Matt. 13.24-30)
 - b) The parable of the mustard: The product of the kingdom. (Matt. 13.31,32)
 - c) The parable of the leaven: The influence of the kingdom. (Matt. 13.33)
 - d) The parable of the hidden treasure and pearl: The value of the kingdom. (Matt. 13.44-46)
2. The final parable in reference to the kingdom is the parable of the dragnet.

I. THE STORY

- A. **MATTHEW 13.47:** *“the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea”*
 1. The disciples understood fishing. (Matt. 17.26; Mark 1.16-20; John 21.1-14)
 - a) **JOHN 21.1-3:** After Jesus had died, Peter was content to go back to His former life.
 - b) **JOHN 21.3:** Seven disciples got into a “little boat” to fish. (v. 8)
 - c) **JOHN 21.4-6:** Jesus calls on the disciples to cast the net into the sea.
 - d) **JOHN 21.7-10:** The disciples came back to shore with their fish.
 - e) **JOHN 21.11-13:** Jesus and the disciples ate breakfast together.
 2. **MATTHEW 13.47:** *“gathered some of every kind”* (cf. Lev. 11.9-12)
- B. **MATTHEW 13.48:** *“which, when it was full, they drew to shore”*
 1. It was often the practice of dragging the net to shore. (Luke 5.7; John 21.8)
 2. **MATTHEW 13.48:** *“and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.”* Casting a wide net will bring in both good and bad.

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE

- A. What is the one point of this parable? Jesus provides the answer.
 1. **MATTHEW 13.49:** *“So it will be at the end of the age.”* A parable about the judgment.
 2. **MATTHEW 13.49:** *“The angels will come forth”* Servants
 3. **MATTHEW 13.49:** *“separate the wicked from among the just”* Separation.
 4. **MATTHEW 13.50:** *“and cast them into the furnace of fire.”* Sentence.
 5. **MATTHEW 13.50:** *“There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”* Suffering.
- B. Bringing this parable into our lives today.
 1. We are to be fishers of men. (Luke 5.1-11)
 2. We are not to prejudge who is worthy. Cast a wide net. (Matt. 28.19; Acts 1.8)
 - a) We are not to make racial distinctions. (Acts 10.15,28; Eph. 2.14-18)
 - b) We are not to make gender distinctions. (John 4.7-9)
 - c) We are not to make class distinctions. (Luke 18.18; Matt. 8.9; Mark 10.43)
 - d) We are not to make moral distinctions. (Matt. 9.10; 1 Tim. 1.12-16)
 3. We are never to consider the work completed.
 - a) **MATTHEW 13.48:** *“when it was full.”*
 - b) Our Lord wants His house full. (Matt. 22.9,10)
 4. There will be a final day of judgment. Matt. 25.31-34,41)