



A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Matthew 13:47**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a **net**, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

- **13:48** Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the **good** into vessels, but cast the **bad** away.

- **Matthew 13:49**

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

- **13:50** **And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

- This parable may be compared with the parables of the soils and the tares.
 - All three show different results following the teaching of Christ.

- **The parable of the soils** draws attention to the varying degrees of success or failure dependent on the **condition of the hearers;**
- The **tares** illustrate **evil influences** **side by side with** **the work of Christ.**

- The dragnet disregards the causes of failure, and deals only with results,
- It carries us on to the final judgment.

- It was the most natural thing in the world that Jesus should use illustrations from fishing when he was speaking to fishermen.

- Our Lord compares his method to the casting of a great net and the drawing it through the waters.

- Christ seeks men.
- He spoke to men who knew the sea and he compared his work to theirs.

- While the parable of **The Pearl of Great Price** shows us a man seeking the kingdom,
- This parable presents to us **the seeking of men.**

- Christ aims at a large gathering of souls.
- Christ does not seek one here and there.
 - He is the Savior of the world.
(John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9)
- His love embraces all.

- The net gathers in many fishes.
- Large commercial fishing vessels can catch 10 tons of fish per net load.

- At first
the popularity of Christ
won a multitude of adherents.
- Most of these fell away;
but after Pentecost
a larger host was brought in.
- “Multitude”
(Acts 2:6)

- Great numbers began pressing in, till the balance of policy in the Roman empire swayed from heathenism to Christianity.

- "Like a sunbeam," says Eusebius, "it streamed over the face of the earth."

- There are two great lessons in this parable.
- Let's find out what they are.

- (# 1) It is in the nature of the drag-net that it does not, and cannot, discriminate.
 - Its contents are bound to be a mixture.

- Making application to the Church it means that the Church cannot discriminate

- It is be a mixture of all kinds of people, good and bad, useless and useful.

- There have always been two views of the Church
 - # 1 the exclusive and
 - # 2 the inclusive.

- (# 1) The exclusive view
holds that the Church
is only for people
who are good,
people who are
really and fully committed,
people who are
quite different from the world.

- But it is not the New Testament view,
because, apart from
anything else,
who is to do the judging,
when we are told that
we must not judge
in that respect.
(Matthew 7:1).

- (# 2) The inclusive view feels instinctively that the Church must be open to all.
- That is exactly what this parable teaches.

- But equally
this parable teaches
**that the time of separation
will come**

- When the
good and the bad
are sent to their
respective destinations.

- That separation is not man's work but God's.
- Therefore it is our duty to gather in all who will come, and not to judge or separate,
 - But to leave the final judgment to God.

- Life presents many illusions.
- As we do not always perceive the difference between truth and falsehood.

- Many ideas
are put forward
as being delightful
and capable of
bringing you happiness.
- But when you grasp them
they are like cobwebs
and they crumble to nothing,
to dust in your hands.

- And you are left frustrated, disillusioned, disappointed, shattered and defeated.
- Life consists of trying to sort out the illusions from the truth, of attempting to distinguish between fantasy and the real thing.

- The truth is that man was created to be indwelt by God.

- The only way we can fulfill our humanity is to be filled with God and to understand that we are to live, to operate, by faith in him.

- **For in him
we live,
and move,
and have our being;
(Acts 17:28).**

- **If men remain reprobates**
after entering the Church,
they must be rejected by Christ.
- **But Christ can change**
the vilest sinner
and he will do this
with the truly penitent
who trust and obey him.
- Then they will **not** be like
the worthless fish.
(**Luke 15**)

- The gospel message,
this good news about
the lost secret of humanity,
about the fact that
Christ in you
- Is able to restore to you
all that God ever intended
you to have,
is like a great net
sweeping through
the tides of humanity.

- Whoever is caught in it is made to reveal what kind of people they are,
- To reveal whether they will deal honestly with the truth
- Or whether they will reject it and turn from it.

- You can see this process in your own life, in your own experience.
 - You can see it in the record of church history.
 - You can see it working itself out in human events today.
 - The gospel has this radical character about it.

- You remember that when Paul spoke to the Athenians on Mars Hill,
 - To the thinkers and philosophers in that great pagan city where the people were given over to superstition and to the worship of false gods,
 - He said to them,

- **Acts 17:30**

**And the times of
this ignorance
God winked at;
but now
commandeth
all men every where
to repent:**

- What did he mean by “but now”?
 - He is referring to a point in the experience of each individual.

- We are all born into ignorance.
- We all grow up following:
 - false gods,
 - wrong ideals,
 - false principles.

- But when you hear the truth of the gospel,
- When the reality of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, strikes you
 - And you understand that there is available
a wholly different way of life,
 - And that in Jesus Christ is found the lost secret
of our humanity.

- When you learn that,
**then you have arrived
at a crisis point,**
- Then you have to
do something about it.
- You have to
act on it
or reject it,
one or the other.

- And then you will be different.

- It will drive you

one way

or

the other.

- If you believe it, and act upon it, you will never be the same again.
- It will change everything about your life, gradually, little by little, as you see it applied to various areas.

- **If you reject it,**
you will never be
the same again.
- You will either be
constantly playing the hypocrite,
becoming more pious outwardly
and more devilish inwardly.
- That is what **Jesus** is saying.
 - **His dragnet exposes**
the attitude of your heart
toward the truth.

- **From Paul's second letter**
to the Corinthians
we read,
 - **For we are the aroma of Christ to God**
among those who are being saved
 - **and among those who are perishing,**
 - **to one a fragrance from death to death,**
 - **to the other a fragrance from life to life.**
(2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

- Everywhere Paul went he made an impact, and people could never be the same,
- Because when they understood the great, thrusting reality of the gospel they had to make a choice.

- What they determined to do exposed whether they were honest or not,
 - Whether they wanted to deal with life as it is, or to fool themselves and kid themselves and go on dreaming about something that would never be.

- Christians are **the aroma of Christ** to all men.
- Wherever we go **men must face a fact** which changes them forever.
 - It is either **life** to **life** or **death** to **death**.

- That is what the gospel is like, Jesus said.

- It is like a net which captures people and eventually exposes what they are.

- Christ calls all kinds of people;
but he does not accept all.

- "Many are called,
but few are chosen."
(Matthew 22:14)

- It is even possible to be a guest seated at the king's banquet, and yet to be cast out, if the wedding garment is not worn.

(Matthew 22:11)

- **There is no unfairness**
or partiality in Christ.
- He desires to accept **all**.
 - If he must **reject** any,
it is against his will,
a pain to him.
- **“Grieve not the Holy Spirit”**
(Ephesians 4:30)

- Another thing must be observed.
- The fish taken in the net are disposed of by the fishermen;
 - They now have no choice in the matter.

- In the here and now we are conscious of a power to choose our own destiny.
- A power to change and become something quite different from what we are.

- But there comes a time when whatever you are that you shall forever be;
- When you must abide by your choice and take all its consequences.

- This parable makes much of the fact, that all that is within the net are by no means approved by God.

- The eternity that some are advancing towards, our Lord does not hesitate to describe as

**"a furnace of fire,
where shall be
wailing and gnashing
of teeth."**

(Matthew 13:50)

- Men will not evade what God warns about.

- Galatians 6:7

- God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.

- Now is the time
to use our days wisely.

- Ephesians 5:16

- Redeeming the time,
because the days are evil.

- When religious professors bring scandal on the church,
- The enemies of Christianity
should remember
that in this respect
things turn out
just as our Lord
predicted they would.

- Matthew 13:47

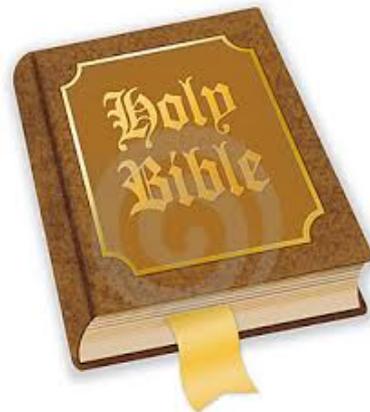
- Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



- 03-11-2018 Tryon, NC