

The Parable of the Net

Matthew 13:47-51

Audience ...

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him ... (Matt. 13:36)

Because Jesus was addressing the *disciples* and not the *crowds*, we know that the parable, while certainly being *about* _____, is not *evangelistic* per se.

It is aimed at _____ of Jesus – both then and now.

Context ...

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field ..." (Matt. 13:44)

"... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value ..." (Matt. 13:45-46)

In the last two parables, Jesus taught of the incalculable _____ of God's Kingdom. Whether you *stumble upon* it or are *searching for it*, it is worth exchanging _____ for. It is _____.

But what about those who have no interest in the things of God and no desire for His Kingdom?

The message:

Jesus employs the familiar image of _____ employing a _____.

When fisherman bring in their catch, they do not _____ it while in the net but wait until they come ashore.

There they _____ the good (that which is kosher and alive) and _____ of the bad (unclean and dead).

The meaning:

The passage is similar in theme and message as *the parable of wheat and tares*.

The entire scene – not just the net – is an analogy of the _____ Kingdom (The coming Kingdom).

Jesus uses powerful Old Testament imagery of _____. See: *Eccl. 9:12; Jere. 16:16-17; Hab. 1:15-17*

The casting of the proverbial net = _____.

The net itself = the _____ of God.

The fishermen = the _____ that God will deploy as administrators of His _____.

The furnace = the _____, _____ judgment of God for unforgiven sinners. (Those "unclean" and spiritually "dead").

And God himself will be Judge ...

He will _____ on His throne

He will _____ the people of the world

He will _____ His own – the heirs to His Kingdom – from those who are condemned

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (Matt. 25:31-32)

For us disciples:

We have been sent out as fishers of men, _____ the net *now*, because God will _____ the net *then*.

There is _____ to our mission because we do not know the timing of the end of the age.

God's judgment is _____, but his Kingdom is _____.

Do we believe that?

This passage unequivocally rules out _____.

This passage emphatically emphasizes the reality of future _____.

This passage unequivocally reveals the horrors of _____ for those not in His Kingdom.

For those who are not disciples (yet):

Since God's judgment is *inclusive* but his Kingdom is *exclusive*, what is your response to the Gospel?

Will you embrace the treasure that God is offering you?