



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



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