

Discussion Questions



Understanding the Parable

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?
2. Jesus asks His disciples in verse 51, "Have you understood all these things?" How would you answer that question for yourself regarding this parable?
3. The sermon explained three methods of fishing. Why is it significant that Jesus chose the dragnet method for this parable? What does the size and scope of the net tell us about God's reach?

Wrestling with Hard Truths

4. This parable addresses the reality of heaven and hell. What emotions or questions does this topic bring up for you?
5. The sermon stated: "God does not send people to hell against their will. Judgment confirms the choice people have already made." How does this perspective affect your understanding of God's justice and love?
6. Read Romans 1:18-32. How does Paul's description of God's wrath help us understand the concept of God "giving people over" to their desires?

The Righteous and the Wicked

7. According to the sermon, what distinguishes the "good fish" from the "bad fish"? Is it about behavior or something deeper?
8. The sermon emphasized that accepting Christ leads to heart transformation, not sinless perfection. Why is this distinction important? How have you experienced this transformation in your own life?

Our Responsibility as Disciples

9. **Jesus contrasts scribes (who preserve knowledge) with disciples (who live it out). Which tendency do you lean toward—learning without doing, or doing without learning? How can you find better balance?**
10. **The sermon quoted Andrew Murray: "Don't seek wisdom and knowledge, seek Him." What's the difference between seeking knowledge about God versus seeking God Himself?**
11. **What excuses do you make (or have you made) for not sharing your faith? How does this parable challenge those excuses?**

Casting the Net

12. **Think about your personal "net"—the people in your sphere of influence. Who are 3-5 people God might be calling you to reach with the gospel?**
13. **The sermon mentioned the "six degrees of separation" concept. If each person in this group reached just a few people with the gospel, what could the potential impact be?**
14. **What does it look like practically to "cast the net" in your daily life—at work, school, home, or in your community?**

Key Takeaways

1. **The gospel reaches everyone**, but not everyone will accept it. The dragnet catches all kinds of fish.
2. **There will be a final judgment** where God separates the righteous from the wicked based on whether they accepted or rejected Jesus.
3. **God is both loving and just.** Hell exists not because God is cruel, but because love requires choice, and some choose to live apart from God.
4. **Understanding requires responsibility.** If we truly understand the gospel and the reality of judgment, we must act.

5. **We are called to be disciples, not just scribes.** Learning must lead to living and sharing.
6. **Our differences make the net bigger.** Each person can reach different people that others cannot.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Personal Reflection

- Spend time this week examining your own heart. Have you truly accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior? If you're unsure, talk to a trusted Christian friend or your small group leader.

Option 2: Learn to Share

- Write out your personal testimony in 3-5 minutes. Practice sharing it with someone in your group or a trusted friend. Focus on what your life was like before Christ, how you came to faith, and how He has changed you.

Option 3: Cast Your Net

- Identify 3 specific people in your life who don't know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily and look for one opportunity this week to have a spiritual conversation or show Christ's love in a tangible way.

Option 4: Bridge the Gap

- If you struggle to relate to a different generation or culture, intentionally spend time with someone different from you this week. Ask questions, listen, and look for common ground in the gospel.

Option 5: Disciple Someone

- Identify someone younger in the faith (age or spiritual maturity) and offer to meet with them regularly to help them apply God's Word to their life.

Reflection Questions for the Week

- Am I living as a scribe (preserving knowledge) or as a disciple (living it out)?
- What treasures—both old and new—has God given me to share with others?
- Who in my life needs to hear about the transforming power of Jesus?
- What specific step is God calling me to take this week to "cast the net"?

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for hearts to be softened to the reality of judgment and the urgency of the gospel
- Pray for courage to share your faith with specific people God has placed in your life
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to transform hearts—both your own and those you're reaching
- Pray for Deer Run Church to be a "dragnet" that reaches the community effectively
- Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus, that they would encounter His love