

Memory Verse:

Lord, your faithful love reaches to heaven, your faithfulness to the clouds. -- Psalm 36:5 / CSB

Opening Discussion:

Why do you think Jesus likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a fishing net?

Matthew 13:47-52 | The Parable of the Net

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. **48** When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. **49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous **50** and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Main Idea: *This particular parable is about the realities of separation, judgment and hell.*

Keys to understanding this Parable:

- + Define the type of fishing net Jesus was referring to.
- + Determine the difference between the inclusive invitation of Christ and then exclusive nature of the Kingdom.
- + Disciples of Christ must keep the message of Gospel front and center.

Taking Inventory

1. Remember that it's possible to be in the Lord's net but not be a good fish.
2. Refocus on sharing the message of the Gospel while in the net.
3. Refuse to lose hope because evil will finally be separated from good.



Discussion Questions:

1. What does the "net cast into the sea" symbolize about the Kingdom of Heaven's reach?
2. Who or what do the "good fish" and "bad fish" represent?
3. What does the act of bringing the full net "to shore" signify?
4. How does this parable's depiction of judgment compare to other parables, like the Weeds?

Praise and Prayer Requests: