

28 Parable of Jesus Series The Net

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

What is the parable of the net and what lessons can we learn from it?

Matthew 13:47-50

- 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and **gathered** of every kind:
 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.
 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,
 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

What is the casting of the net represent?

The casting of the net is the preaching of the gospel to ALL the world.

What did Jesus tell the fishermen Peter and Andrew when He told them to follow Him?

Matthew 4:18-20

- 18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.
 19 And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**
 20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

They left their physical nets that were used to catch fish in exchange for their spiritual nets of Christ to fish for men for the kingdom of God!

Does Jesus command us to go “fishing” for men, women, boys, and girls? Yes!

Matthew 28:19-20

- 19 **Go ye** therefore, and teach **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in **all** the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Who does the net gather?

The kingdom of heaven is offered to ALL people, but those who are gathered are those who either

- 1) Accept the truth and live by it – holy life through Jesus Christ having victory over sin. Lives a righteous life through Jesus Christ.
- 2) Profess the truth, but don't live by the truth. Claim righteousness but don't live righteously.

“The casting of the net is the preaching of the gospel. This gathers both good and evil into the church. When the mission of the gospel is completed, the judgment will accomplish the work of separation.” COL p.122

Wheat & Tares and the Net

The parable of the net is comparable to the parable of the wheat and tares in **Matthew 13:24-20 (explanation)**

verses 38-42. Remember in the parable of the wheat and tare that the field is the world and that it was Satan that contaminated this world with his lies. His lies are the seeds of tare produce an unfruitful crop of tare. In contrast it is Jesus who came to sow His seeds of truth to ALL the world. They both grow together until the harvest. The physical church of God on this earth is to give the truth as a net to catch men. Some will be converted and become wheat and some will remain unconverted but still profess that they are followers of Jesus.

What is the main lesson that is taught in the parable of the net?

“Christ saw how the existence of false brethren in the church would cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of. The world would revile the gospel because of the inconsistent lives of false professors. Even Christians would be caused to stumble as they saw that many who bore Christ's name were not controlled by His Spirit. Because these sinners were in the church, men would be in **danger of thinking that God excused their sins**. Therefore Christ lifts the veil from the future and bids all to behold that it is character, not position, which decides man's destiny.” {COL 122.2}

Even though those who profess to the truth but do not live by it are in a physical church; they are not truly a member of the one church of Jesus Christ.

Professing truth, living around the truth or, just listening to the truth does not make you accept and live by the TRUTH.

How will those who are truly connected to Christ live?

1) Deny worldliness and lives righteously in this present world

Titus 2:11-15

- 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
- 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
- 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

2) Remain connected to Christ the vine – the head of His true church

John 15:1-6

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

1 John 3:4-6, 9

- 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

- 6 Whosoever **abideth in him sinneth not**: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.
 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

3) Obey God's commandments through the power of remaining in Christ

John 15:9-14

- 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.
 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

4) Instruments of righteousness

Romans 6:12-18

- 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
 13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.
 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

In the end there will be a Harvest of Separation

At the end of the parable of the wheat and the tares and the net God reveals that there will be a harvest of separation, the good from the bad.

Matthew 13:47-50

- 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and **gathered** of every kind:
 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.
 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,
 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

What happened to the tares in the parable of the wheat and tares?

Matthew 13:37-40

- 37 He answered and said unto them, **He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;**
 38 **The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;**
 39 **The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.**
 40 **As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.**

Don't be deceived, God DOES NOT EXCUSE sin, He made provision to be cleansed from sin through Jesus Christ.

Are you a sheep or goat?

Jesus also describes the final harvest as a time of separation of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31 – 46.

What are some characteristics of sheep?

They are very timid creatures and totally depend on their shepherd for survival. They follow their shepherd where every he goes.

What does Jesus call those who hear his voice and follow Him?

John 10:14-15

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:27-28

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

What are some characteristic of goats?

They are very stubborn! They like to butt.

How do you know if you are a sheep or a goat?

Sheep obey Jesus truth by faith.

Goats “but” the word of God and His truth. They make excuses!

How does Jesus describe parable of the separation of the sheep and the goats in the final harvest?

Matthew 25:31-34

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

What type of character does the sheep possess?

Matthew 25:35-40

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee?* or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee?*

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

Comparably what type of character does the goats possess?

Matthew 25:41-46

- 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:
 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?
 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.
 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Are you a sheep or goat?

In the final harvest EXCUSES are not acceptable. God is calling us NOW to repent, confess sins, and be converted through the power of Jesus Christ surrendering ALL sins.

Even though God's people are described as a collective group abiding in Christ. We are saved individually. We individually have to make a decision. Group or denominational affiliation is not automatic citizenship into heaven. You MUST make your own decision to give up sin and worldliness and follow Jesus ALL the WAY!

Are there any exceptions of those who are covered with the robe of Christ righteousness at the end of time?

Jesus taught in the parable of highway and byways that there are NOT exceptions. We ALL must have on the robe of Christ righteousness, ALL sins covered by the blood of the Lamb.

Matthew 22:1-13

- 1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage.
 5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*.
 7 But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.
 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:
 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NO EXCUSES. You must have on the wedding garment of Jesus' robe of righteousness.

Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Christ wants us to wear His robe of righteousness and be adorned the jewels of His character.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

- 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Peter 3:3-4

- 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
 4 But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Are you holding on to any sin? God is pleading with you let it go! Give it to Jesus.

WHAT IS SELF DESTRUCTION?

Anyone holding on to sin! The payment for sin is eternal death. Jesus has given us the provision to be saved, but if anyone holds on to sin they will be destroyed. Jesus will fulfill his promise. He is going to get rid of sin forever!

Eze 33:11 Say unto them, *As* I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

NOW is the Time NO second chance!

Now is the time. There will be NO second chance. You are living in a probationary period now. God is pleading now. The parables explain the harvest of separation that there will be not a second chance.

Appeal...

We are at the end of the end of time.

Prophecy is being fulfilled**Revelation 13:1-4**

- 1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.
 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Revelation 13:11-12

- 11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:15-17

- 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak,

and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

- 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:
- 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

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