

The Parable of the Dragnet (Matt. 13:47-50)

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⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, ⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

The Point of the Parable

- Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
 - Jesus preached in parables to separate those who earnestly desire truth from those who do not (**Mark 10:11-12; Matt. 13:12-15**).
- This parable pictures:
 - A dragnet being cast into the sea, catching both good and bad vessels.
 - The good vessels were kept, but the bad vessels were thrown away.
- This parable is an illustration of the final judgment (**Matt. 25:31-46**).

The Dragnet

- The dragnet may represent the word of God and/or the church.
 - Like a dragnet, the word of God is what draws in people (**Rom. 1:16**); it also divides the good and bad vessels (**Luke 12:51; Heb. 4:12; Acts 2:37**).
 - The church bears responsibility for upholding God's word and bringing it to the world (**1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:11-12**).
 - Like the dragnet, the church contains good and bad vessels (**Rev. 3:1-4**).
 - Some in the net will be cast away (**Rev. 3:16**).

The Separation

- There will be a great separation that occurs at the end of the ages, where the good vessels and bad vessels will be separated by angels (**v.49-50; 2 Thess. 1:7-9**).
- The wicked will be separated from “**among**” the just.
 - This may be referring to wicked Christians being revealed on the Last Day and receiving their recompense judgment (**1 Tim. 5:24**).
 - If so, this does not negate churches (and individual Christians) needing to make their own separations from wicked Christians while on earth (**1 Cor. 5:11-13; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11; Rom 16.17; 1 Tim. 1:20; etc.**).
- Both the righteous and the wicked will stand before the Lord in judgment (**2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; Rev. 22:12**).
- Those whose sins separate them from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**) will be separated from those whose sins have been covered by the blood of Christ (**Rom. 5:6-11**).

One group will be eternally punished while the other will be eternally rewarded. The choice is ours to make!