

# the parables of matthew 13



# Parable Reminders

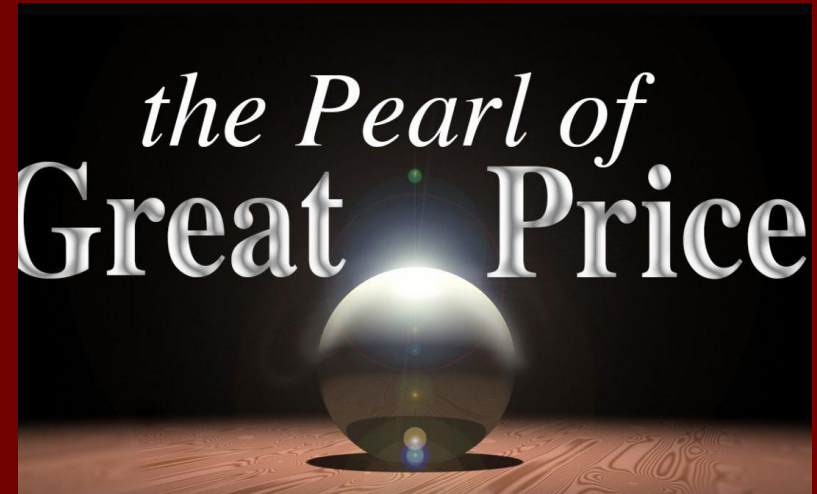
- A Parable is **not** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a **casting or placing side by side** to a real event or **to compare likeness or similitude** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

## **Application: Parables Are Keys to the Kingdom of God**

- The keys to *open* understanding are contained in Christ. He gives those keys to whom He will.**
- The parables of Jesus are keys to the Kingdom of God, that unlock the knowledge to Life, if we will heed the revealed understanding and warnings of the parables.**

# Parable Of The Hidden Treasure / Parable of the Costly Pearl

- The parable describes the preciousness of God's elect in preparation for the coming Kingdom of God and "The Value" of "The Sacrifice", as well as the high cost to God of acquiring potential members of His Kingdom.



## Distinctions Between Parables Of The Hidden Treasure and The Costly Pearl

- The Treasure is made up of units of precious things, such as coins and gems of various kinds, although they are collectively one treasure.
- The Pearl, however, is a single object. These two illustrations—both of which conclude at the same place, the completion of the purchase—represent different aspects of the same truths: the *costliness* of the Treasure or Pearl, and the *joy* of the Purchaser.

# Parable of the Dragnet

## ■ Matthew 13:47-51

- “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end (consummation) of the age; the angels will come forth and take (separate) out the wicked from the righteous and will throw them into the furnace of fire, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, “Yes.”

# Parable of the Dragnet

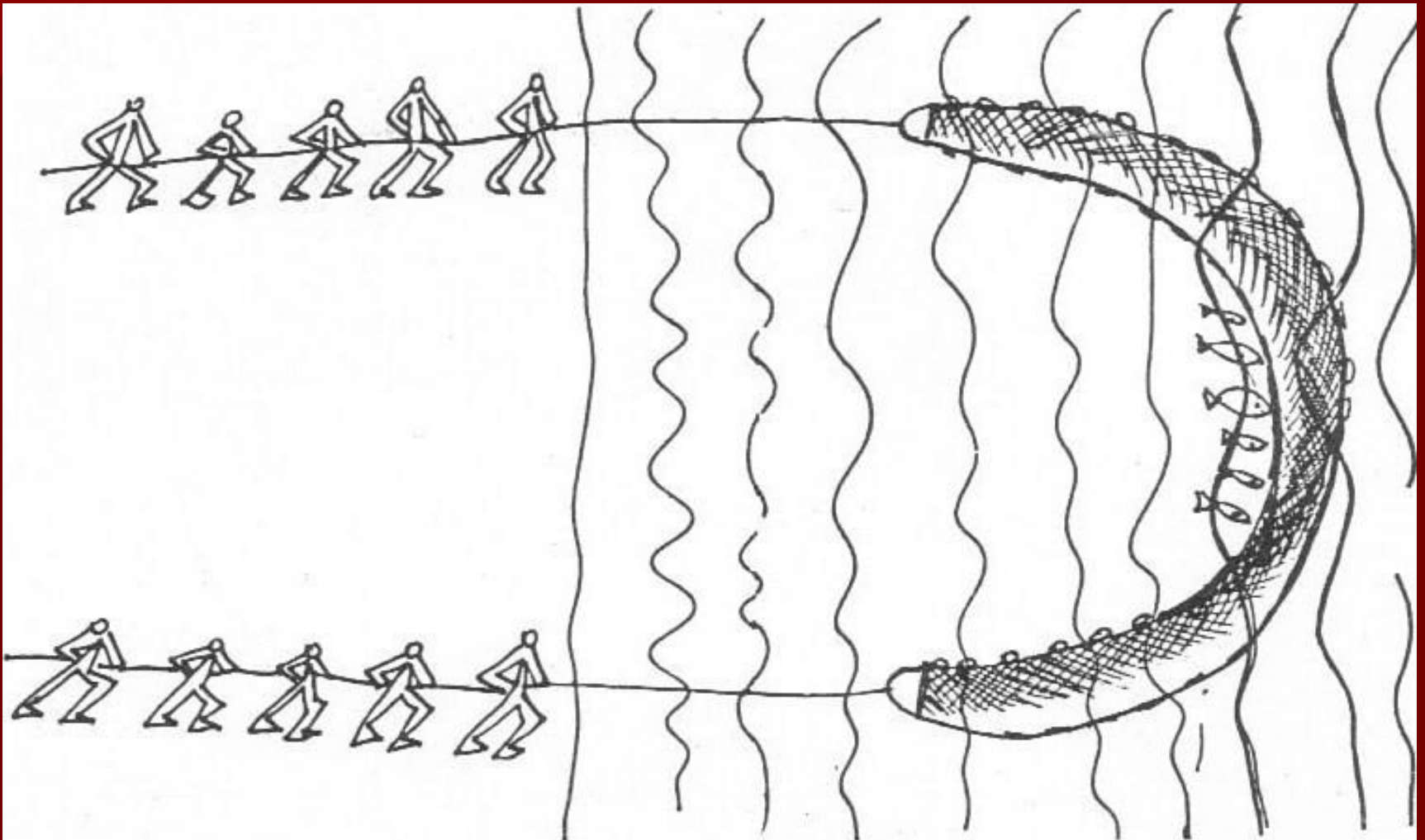


# Parable of the Dragnet





# Parable of the Dragnet



*Sketch showing principle of dragnet*

# Parable of the Dragnet

- **Matthew 4:18** – “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”
- Peter, Andrew, James and John had been fishermen prior to Jesus calling them, so the idea of a dragnet was familiar and vivid in their minds.
  - **Sea – Revelation 13:1; 17:15** - In prophecy the sea or a body of water, can symbolizes "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues"
  - **Fish – Habakkuk 1:14-15** – In prophecy people can be symbolized by fish that are dragged into nets.
  - **Romans 1:5-6; 8:28** - Jesus signifies that members of His church are "the called" out of the world. "...to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake...you are the called of Jesus Christ."

# Parable of the Dragnet

- **“Gathered/Gathering” – Matthew 13:47**
- This word ‘gather’, ‘gathered fish of every kind,’ is exactly the same word used in another parable, the parable of the sheep and goats, where the idea of separating the good from the bad is repeated. **“And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another (Matthew 25:32). The judgment begins with a separation. The sheep will be separated from the goats, the good from the bad.”**
  - In Greek, ‘to gather (*sunago*)’ also means ‘to welcome.’ It is used in that sense in where instead of the word ‘gather’ we have ‘welcome **Matthew 25:35, 38, 43** me’. ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed (*sunago*) Me ... When was it that we welcomed (*sunago*) you?’ It appears that this means that the Kingdom of God stretches out a welcoming hand to everybody.

# Parable of the Dragnet

- **“Gathered/Gathering” – Matthew 13:47**
  - The word of “Kingdom” is *basileia*, in Greek (Strong's #932). The word means, “royal power, kingship, dominion, rule”;
    - “not to be confused with an actual kingdom, but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom”.

# Parable of the Dragnet

- **What happens when the dragnet is full?**
  - We are told that when the net was filled, it was drawn to shore.
  - This fullness also echoes the language of Paul in **Romans 11:25**, where he speaks about 'the fullness of the Gentiles.' When the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, then the end of the age will take place. Or to use the wording of our parable, we can say that the net is brought to the shore when it is full. You see the analogy? When God's purpose is complete, when the net is full, then the end will come.
  - There are two distinct periods in the parable of the dragnet: (1) there is the period of fishing and then (2) the period of separating. The clause 'when it was full (v. 48)' corresponds to 'at the end of the age (v. 49).' We now live in the time of fishing.
  - But we are approaching the end of the world, there is sure time of separating and judgment of the fish. The focus of the story is definitively more on this future separation than on catching people for salvation.

# Parable of the Dragnet

## ■ Parable's Focus on Judgment

- Final Judgment is coming for the world
- The church is under Jesus Christ's judgment, now
- **I Peter 4:17** – "For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"
- **Revelation 11:1-2** – "Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff (**Ezekiel 20:33-44**); and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months."
- **Psalm 98:9** – "Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge (**John 5:22**) the world with righteousness And the peoples with equity."

# Parable of the Dragnet

## ■ Matthew 13:48

- “and when it was filled, they drew it up...”
- In the Greek “to draw up” (*anabibazo*), appears only once in the New Testament, it means “to cause to go up, to ascend”.
- **Acts 24:15** - The net is drawn out of the sea. It is lifted up with all the fish in it. This can be seen as a picture of the resurrection. It is reasonable to think that Jesus used this rare word to bring out the idea of being lifted up at the resurrection.

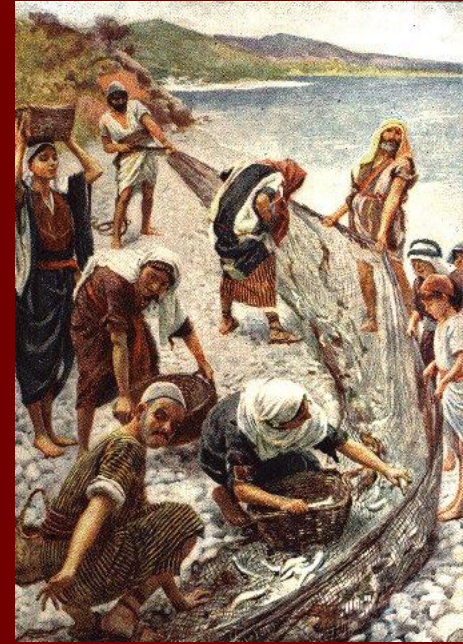
# Parable of the Dragnet

- **Compare / Contrast: The Soil / Wheat & Tares**
  - It is quite easy to speculate that the good fish represent people that God declares righteous, those who received the gospel in truth and in love of it.
  - What about the bad fish?
  - The Greek word 'bad (*sapros*)' is used in the parable to reference something that is rotten or corrupt. The basic meaning of the word relates to the process of decay. Similar to the rocky and thorny soil Christian?
  - In other words, the parable of the dragnet is not just a repetition of the parable of the tares. There is an important difference. The new element is that these fish were bad by corruption, not by nature. This means that the fish which are thrown out are fish that were once healthy, but became sick or even died.



# Parable of the Dragnet

- **Compare / Contrast to the Wheat / Tares**
  - **Revelation 14:15** – “And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.”
  - **Matthew 13:41-43** – “The Son of Man will send forth his angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness...”



# Parable of the Dragnet

## ■ Warning? Revelation 20:11-15

- The sobering main point of the parable can be stated thus: “A day of reckoning will come in which God will separate the true believers from mere pretenders, and those found to be false will be cast into lake of fire.”
- God's "catch" is the church, a chosen cross section of the entire world; He casts a wide net. However, once those He calls accept Jesus Christ, God does show Himself partial to the "good fish"—those who love Him, obey Him, serve others, grow, and produce spiritual fruit.
- In the process of salvation, God judges whether we are good, useable fish or substandard fish fit only for the fire. He judges us according to “. . . the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). God throws His net into the world and drags us in, and if we are unwilling to comply with His holy standard, our eternal judgment will be to be discarded in the fire.

# GROUP DISCUSSION

