

The Dragnet and the Fish

Matthew 13:47-50

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into a lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

1. The Kingdom picture – What will the end be like?
2. Good fish, bad fish – The separation
3. The place of separation

Conclusion:

“Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (v.52)

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Study Questions: Matthew 13:47-50

1. What specific event is Jesus describing in this parable?
2. Why do you think Jesus used fishing with a large net as his parable to help the disciples understand the separation process?
3. Why is good and bad fish such a good example of the judgment and separation of God’s people from those who will not follow Him?
4. After reading Matthew 13:47-50 and Matthew 24 & 25, do you ever worry about the final judgment day? Why or why not?
5. What does meditating on judgment day cause you to do?

Next week we will begin a study on Heaven. Before we begin that study, read through the teaching of Jesus found in Matthew to understand what the end will be like. Jot down journal notes of what you learn as you read these passages. Allow God to speak truth into your life and use it for His kingdom purpose.

Weekly Reading Plan:

Day 1	Matthew 24: 1-35	Signs of the End of the Age
Day 2	Matthew 24:36-51	The Day and The Hour Unknown
Day 3	Matthew 25:1-13	Parable of the Ten Virgins
Day 4	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the Talents
Day 5	Matthew 25: 31-46	The Sheep and the Goats