

Matthew 13:47-58**8-21-16*****The Good, the Bad and the Ugly and everything in between*****I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: England Fam Mortuary. Visual. The Stir.
- B. Slide5 FPU: Steve & Christiana Cotteen.
- C. Slide6 Children at Risk: Come learn about *CA Fam Life Center*, Mary Jo Ramirez, Program & Dev Dir
- D. Slide7a Ladies Summer Series: This Tues. Kelly message *Love for the Samaritan woman*. Kayla Weisman leading worship. Starts 7pm, show up 6:30 fellowship/dessert. Alabaster Jar/Jewelry.
- E. Slide7b CC Magazine: new edition (Marjorie & Kelly are quoted in) #8 Harvest Crusade: this weekend.

II. Slide9 Intro: *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly and everything in between*

- A. A politician woke up after an operation & found the curtains in his hospital room drawn. “Why are the curtains closed?” he asked the nurse. “Is it **night** time already?” “No,” the nurse replied, “*But there’s a fire across the street, and we didn’t want you to wake and think the operation was **unsuccessful**.*”
- B. This parable is similar w/Wheat & Tares. Both show good&bad side by side, *then* divided.
 - 1. Both were explained by Jesus in the words, *so it will be at the end of the age*.
- C. Also similar to:
 - 1. The *parable of the marriage feast* (those w/ & w/o wedding garment).
 - 2. The *parable of the household* (separation of good & evil servants).
 - 3. The *parable of the 10 virgins* (separation of wise & foolish).
 - 4. The *parable of the talents* (sep of profitable & unprofitable servants).
 - 5. The *parable of the sheep/goats* (sep of them).
- D. Slide10 The parable of the **dragnet** is the 7th in a series of parables on *the kingdom of heaven*
 - 1. Jesus is giving us a course heading of the age in which we live. He is trying to show us what is going on behind the scenes so we will have an understanding of what He is doing in our world. Regardless of how things may appear the Lord Jesus makes it clear to us that **God is in control**, that **God knows what he is doing**. Jerry Vines, adapted from.

E. James Montgomery Boice, *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 hell.*

III. Slide11a DRAGNET - Good Fish, Bad Fish (47-50)

A. Slide11b Dr Seuss in his 1960 children's book: **One** fish **Two** fish Red fish Blue fish. Black fish Blue fish **Old** fish **New** fish...

Yes. Some are red. And some are blue. Some are old. And some are new.

Some are sad. And some are glad. And some are *very, very bad*.

Why are they Sad and glad and bad? I do not know. **Go ask your dad.**

1. Let's pray & ask our Dad:

B. This parable describes the ingathering of the righteous & wicked and their *subsequent fates*

1. The fishermen sorted the fish like the reapers sorted the wheat and the weeds.

C. Slide12 The Fish - In the North end of Galilee, where the Jordan river's inlet is, is one of the best fishing area's of Israel. 18-24 diff-species of fish.

D. The bad fish/wicked - i.e. inedible by Jewish Law. Are those people who outwardly adhere to the church, but inwardly have no connection w/Jesus & the true church.

1. They can fool some of us some of the time, & others all the time, but Jesus... none of the time.

2. Trench, The Lord never contemplated His visible church as a perfect communion. As there was a Ham on the ark, & a Judas among the 12, so there would be a Babylon within the bosom of the church.

E. Slide13 The Dragnet - (only here in scripture) Approx. 6' tall x 300' long. One end held up by corks, the other held down by weights. Also called *Long-draw net, sweep net, seine net* (Sane)

1. Saw this in Ensenada (helped), when kids were young.

2. This was a popular analogy. Habakkuk used it in 1:14,15 Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over them? 15 They take up all of them with a hook, They catch them in their net, And gather them in their dragnet.

3. Eccl.9:12 *For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net.*

4. Lockyer said, The net represents the proclamation and presentation of the gospel of redeeming Grace. The wide sweeping, all embracing net illustrates

the wide reach and the effectual operation of the gospel whereby men are drawn into the profession of Christianity and into the fellowship of the visible church of Christ.

- F. **The Shore** - As long as the net is *in the water*, it contains **bad & good** fish. It cannot be otherwise. **On the shore** will be the place for separation.
- G. **The Vessel** - **what vessel is this here?** It was **Barns** in vs.30. Mansions in Jn.14.
- H. **The End:** *gathered the good...threw the bad away.*
1. 2 in the field 1 taken vs. 1 left. **Gather the wheat vs. bind them in bundles & burn them.** Enter My kingdom vs. being cast into the furnace of fire. **Sheep vs. Goat.** Wheat vs. Tares. Good fish vs. Bad fish.
 2. **Slide14** Heb.9:27,28 *And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.*
- I. **Slide15** Chrysostom spoke of the **Dragnet** as *a terrible parable.*
Gregory the Great said of it that it was *rather to be trembled at than expounded.*
1. **How can you justify this kind of punishment?** this everlasting punishment (Mt 25:46). Eternal condemnation (Mk.3:29). Eternal judgment (Heb.6:2). Everlasting destruction (2Thes.1:9). Eternal fire/Gehenna (Mt.18:8,9). Unquenchable fire (Mk.9:43-38). Eternal torment (Rev.19:20).
 - a) **The sacrifice of Jesus Christ** must have been *so awesome, so priceless, so perfect and so valuable* that such a punishment would be proper.
 - b) **Slide16** Hell is not some extreme act by a holy righteous God. It is the **exact, accurate and just** reward for refusing God.
 2. **Let's also remember** saints, it is **the Lord alone** who pronounces doom. As fishermen, our offices are not judicial but **declarative**. We are to proclaim Christ and His salvation & invite *every kind* to His cross.
 - a) This is the day of **grace** when the lost can still be found.
 3. **May you & I spread the net of salvation**, inviting all men to **repent and believe**, and leave **Him** as the judge of all the earth, to separate the good from the bad,

at the time determined.

IV. Slide17 **HOUSEHOLDER (51,52)**

- A. Slide18a (51) He wasn't interested in *academics* or *theory*, but the importance if they had *understood* His teaching.
- B. Slide18b NLT *Every teacher of religious law who becomes a **disciple** in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a **homeowner** who brings from his storeroom **new gems of truth as well as old***
- C. Slide18c We have a final parable to remind us of *our responsibilities*.
- D. We must be a Scribe (Lawyer/Teacher of the law) who *discovers* the truth.
1. The Scribes began as a noble group under the leadership of Ezra.
 2. Their purpose was to **preserve** the Law, **study** it, & **apply** its truth to daily life.
 - a) Neh.8:7,8 *then **instructed** the people in the **Law** while everyone remained in their places. & They **read** from the Book of the Law of God and **clearly explained the meaning** of what was being read, helping the people **understand** each passage.*
 3. Over the years they **degenerated** into a routine task of preserving traditions & man-made interpretations & adding burdens to the lives of the people. Lk.11:46-52
 - a) *They merchandized dead doctrines & embalmed traditions that could not help the people.* Warren Wiersbe
 4. We don't search **after** truth because we have it in **God's Son** (Jn.14:6) & in **God's Word** (Jn.17:17).
 5. We search **into** truth that we might discover more truth.
 6. We should never stop at just **learning** though.
- E. We must be disciples that **do** the truth.
1. **Instructed** = disciplined.
 2. Slide19 The Scribe emphasizes **Learning** & the Disciple emphasizes **Living**.
 - a) We must keep our lives **balanced**. *Don't emphasize **learning** at the expense of **living**.*
 - (1) **CCBC** has done a great job at emphasizing this. *learning/living*
 3. Every Scribe must be a Disciple, every Disciple must be a Scribe.
- F. We must be Stewards who *dispense* the truth.

1. Dispense the Old & the New. **New** principles & insights are based upon **old** Truths.
2. **Also, some things** have been set aside to **ripen** & those the steward is to go get in due season. **Others** are the better for being **fresh** from the garden, these he serves up at once.
 - a) **We are each one responsible for using our knowledge as food for all in our house.**
3. **Caution!** The **new** without the **old** is merely novelty & will not last. **But** the **old** does no good unless it is given **new** applications in life today.
 - a) In answering affirmatively **yes, Lord**, they become responsible for making the truth known to others.
 - b) **New things and old things** - The disciples were beginning to understand the **new** things Jesus was teaching **in conjunction with** the **traditions** from the Scriptures they already knew.

V. Slide20 REJECTION (53-58)

- A. I'll never pass this way again. *Never to return!*
- B. Slide21 Early in His ministry He was rejected here (Naz cliff experience).
 1. Now He was rejected again.
- C. 2 things amazed them: His Words & His Works.
- D. **Their problem:** They were too familiar w/Him in a human way.
 1. It was a case of knowing Him **after the flesh**. 2 Cor.5:16
- E. His pedigree seemed to them to be the lowest.
- F. (54) **Where did this man get this wisdom** - The people know that, unlike their rabbis, Jesus has **no formal training**; He was raised as a craftsman.
 1. They express astonishment at the apparently educated things He says and the attesting signs He performs. **Then they flip & get angry** (57).
- G. (57) This saying is found in *Jewish, Gk, & Roman* writings.
- H. (58) **Unbelief** - is the only thing that will drive Jesus away from you.
- I. Slide22 One fish Two fish Red fish Blue fish. Black fish Blue fish Old fish New fish. This one has a little star. This one has a little car. Say! **What a lot Of fish there are.**

1. What fish are you? Kept fish or thrown away fish?

J. **Question:** How is eternity in hell a fair punishment for sin?

K. **Answer:** Some people have an incomplete understanding of 3 things: *the nature of God, the nature of man, and the nature of sin.*

1. We tend to see God as a kind, merciful Being whose love for us overrides and overshadows all His other attributes. **Of course God is loving, kind, and merciful, but He is first and foremost a holy and righteous God.**

2. So holy is He that He cannot tolerate sin. He is a God whose anger burns against the wicked and disobedient. He hates all manner of sin. And while He is merciful, there are limits to His mercy.

L. Humanity is corrupted by sin, and that sin is always directly against God.

1. When David sinned by committing adultery w/Bathsheba and having Uriah murdered, he responded with an interesting prayer: **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight** Ps.41:4. David understood that all sin is ultimately against God.

2. **Since God is an eternal and infinite Being, as a result, all sin requires an eternal punishment.** God's holy, perfect, and infinite character has been offended by our sin. Although to our finite minds our sin is limited in time, to God - who is outside of time - the sin He hates goes on and on. Our sin is eternally before Him and must be eternally punished in order to satisfy His holy justice.

a) No one understands this better than someone in hell. Like, **the rich man & Lazarus. Both died, and the rich man went to hell while Lazarus went to paradise (Lk.16).** Interestingly, he never says, **"How did I end up here?"** That question is never asked in hell. He does not say, **"Did I really deserve this? Don't you think this is a little extreme? A little over the top?"** He only asks that someone go to his brothers who are still alive and warn them against his fate.

b) Like the rich man, every sinner in hell has a full realization that he deserves to be there. **Each sinner has a fully informed, acutely aware, and sensitive conscience which, in hell, becomes his own tormenter.** This is the experience of torture in hell - a person fully aware of his or her sin with a relentlessly accusing conscience, without relief for even one moment.

- M. The realities of eternal damnation, eternal hell, and eternal punishment are frightening and disturbing. While this may sound grim, there is good news. God loves us and wants us to be saved from hell. But because God is also just and righteous, He cannot allow our sin to go unpunished. Someone has to pay for it.
1. In His great mercy and love, God provided His own payment, His own Son to pay the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross for us.
 2. Jesus' death was *an infinite death* because He is the infinite God/man, paying our infinite sin debt, so that we would not have to pay it in hell for eternity (2 Cor.5:21).
 3. If we confess our sin and place our faith in Christ, asking for God's forgiveness based on Christ's sacrifice, we are saved, forgiven, cleansed, and promised an eternal home in heaven. God loved us so much that He provided the means for our salvation, but if we reject His gift of eternal life, we will face the eternal consequences of that decision.