

God's Dragnet
Miracles and Parables—Part 7
Matthew 13: 47-53
March 12, 2023

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the 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. Have you understood all these things?’ Jesus asked. ‘Yes,’ they replied. He said to them, ‘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.’ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.”--Matthew 13:47-53

Let’s look at the message of the parable in three stages, and then we’ll look at some personal applications of this truth:

1. THE _____: Jesus came _____ to save lost individuals

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” --Luke 19:10

2. THE _____: God wants _____ to know Him

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” --2 Peter 3:9

3. THE _____: Each of us will be judged by how we _____ to God’s offer of forgiveness

“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.” --Matthew 13:49

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” --Romans 6:23

Three personal lessons we can apply to our lives:

PERSONAL LESSON #1: God loved me and sought me _____ I ever started seeking Him

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”
--Ephesians 1:4-5

PERSONAL LESSON #2: God wants everyone to be saved, but He won’t _____ anyone to accept His love

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” --John 3:36

LIFE LESSON #3: In light of God’s judgment I should actively _____ people to trust in Jesus

“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.” (In other words, because there is a hell for sinners, I’m motivated to persuade people) But in a few sentences later he wrote, “For Christ’s love compels us...We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”
--2 Corinthians 5:11, 14, 20