

Parable of the Dragnet

Josué Lainey – November 9, 2025

Matthew 13:47–51 (NASB95) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They *said to Him, “Yes.”

The parable is a ‘similitude’ that shows us that the Kingdom of God though *immediate*, will gather us all into a *future* judgement where the righteous and wicked will be judged.

- **It’s a beautiful promise, at the same time it is a dire warning.**

It echoes other verses like:

Proverbs 1:32-33 (NASB95) For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

- **Judgement is beautiful because God does not let evil run rampant. Evil will be excluded from His kingdom.**

Revelation 21:4 (NKJV) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

- **Without judgement, there is no reason to pursue what is right.**
- Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent*, 492.

“Whatever else we do, we fail if we do not provide the warning that how we live really matters to God and that we will be held accountable.”

- **God cares about how we live; the pickle is we all fall short.**

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NASB95) Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

- **All of us deserve separation from God on judgement day, but...**

John 3:16-21 (NLT) For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.

- **Because of God’s love, we can have right relationship with Him through the work of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension.**

- **It simply requires our faith, not an intellectual knowledge but an intimate knowledge and following of Jesus.**
- **Our choice is to let Christ, our intercessor lead us into the light and right living or reject Him for the darkness.**