

Study Questions
Matthew 13 Parables – Part 10
The Parable of the Dragnet
Sunday February 28th 2010

1). Mt 13:47 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

- a). What continues to be the subject of this parable?
- b). What is the period of time covered in the parable?
- c). Why do you think this parable is also given once Jesus has gone back inside the house?
- d). What does the symbolism of the sea tell us?
- e). What does the dragnet cast into the sea represent?
- f). What two things are pictured for us in the net being drawn to shore?
- g). Where else do we find another parable that gives us this same truth but presented in a different way?
- h). How is a person eternally saved?

- i). How would we understand Christians being classified as ‘good’ and ‘bad’?
- 2). According to our parable what happens to those in the dragnet once they have been brought to shore?
- a). What interpretation does the Lord Himself give for this?
 - b). Do you remember any other places in scripture where we see Christians being separated with regards to entrance into or exclusion from the Kingdom of the heavens?
 - c). Where do we find our foundational picture for this?
 - d) What is taught from the beginning in this foundational picture?
 - e). According to our parable who is responsible for separating Christians into two groups?
 - f). According to what we see in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 what words are used to describe these two groups of Christians, the good and the bad?

3). 1Co 3:11 ¶ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each*

one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

a). Can you describe how our scripture here shows exactly the same scenario as we see in the Parable of the Dragnet?

4). According to the Parable of the Dragnet what happens to the 'bad' Christians?

- a). Where else in the Matthew 13 parables do we see exactly the same thing?
- b). Are there any other scriptural examples of this same picture?
- c). What does this suggest to you?

5). Mt 22:13 *"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

a). How is exclusion from the Kingdom of the heavens described here in the Parable of the Wedding Guest?

b). Lu 22:61 *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

a). Where is Peter when this incident occurs?

b). What connection can you make between this incident the Parable of the Wedding Guest?

c). What might we learn from this for ourselves?

d). What would it mean for us to deny Christ?

6). Mt 5:29 *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. [Gehenna]*

a). What confusion is caused by using the word 'hell' in this scripture?

b). What is Gehenna called in the Old Testament?

c). What is Gehenna?

d). Who uses the word and why?

e). So what do we learn from the Lord's use of Gehenna?

f). Do we have a scripture for this?

7). And so if we put all this together – 'the furnace of fire', 'the outer darkness' and 'Gehenna' – what can we learn about what awaits unfaithful Christians during the 1000 years of the Millennial Kingdom?

a). What does this say to you personally?

b). Does any of this have anything to do with our eternal salvation?

c). *2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;*

d). As we look at this scripture, and think about all that we have been studying, what do you think needs to be our focus?

8). Finally, let's look at the overcomers' promise to the church in -

Re 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

And this in - *Re 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

a). Do these scriptures teach that eternally redeemed individuals will find themselves in the lake of fire?

b). How can we explain this?

c). Do you think that what is described by the furnace of fire, the outer darkness and Gehenna is literal or not?

d). When exactly are those unfaithful Christians cast into the furnace of fire?