

The Dragnet

Storyteller #20 of 20
Tim Gill - August 23, 2015

Jesus used stories when he spoke to the people. In fact, he did not tell them anything without using stories. **Matthew 13:34 (CEV)**

Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Matthew 13:51-52 (NIV)

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:47-50 (NIV)

What does this parable teach?

1. God wants **to reach all kinds of people.** (v.47)

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people. **Luke 5:10 (NIV)**

2. Not everyone **in the net is saved.** (v.48)

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.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

Look closely at yourselves. Test yourselves to see if you are living in the faith. You know that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NCV)

My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall.

2 Peter 1:10 (NCV)

3. God will reveal **where I really stand with Him.** (v49-50)

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)**

Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. **Psalms 32:6 (NLT)**