

Matthew 13:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Analysis

The parable 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind' teaches the mixed nature of kingdom response and final judgment. The net indiscriminately gathers good and bad fish; likewise, the gospel call goes to all, but not all respond genuinely. Separation comes when the net is full (end of age)—angels will 'sever the wicked from among the just.' This warns against presuming that everyone in visible kingdom community is truly redeemed.

Historical Context

Mediterranean fishing commonly used drag-nets pulled between two boats or to shore, catching everything in between. The catch was sorted afterward—edible fish kept, inedible discarded. This parallels final judgment separating true and false professors.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this parable warn against false assurance of salvation?
2. What does this parable teach about the nature and timing of God's judgment?

Interlinear Text

Πάλιν	όμοία	ἐστὶν	ἡ	βασιλεία	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	σαγήνη
Again	like	is	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of heaven	unto a net
G3825	G3664	G2076		G932		G3772	G4522
βληθείσῃ	εἰς	τὴν	θάλασσαν	καὶ	ἐκ	παντὸς	γένους
that was cast	into	G3588	the sea	and	of	every	kind
G906	G1519		G2281	G2532	G1537	G3956	G1085
συναγαγούσῃ·							
gathered							
G4863							

Additional Cross-References

John 15:6 (Parallel theme): If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Revelation 3:1 (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Mark 1:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Acts 20:30 (Kingdom): Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

John 15:2 (Parallel theme): Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

2 Corinthians 11:26 (Parallel theme): In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Luke 5:10 (Parallel theme): And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Galatians 2:4 (Parallel theme): And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

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