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# **The Kingdom Parable of the Net. (2013)**

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises  
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## The Kingdom Parable of the Net.

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### Topics.

- Wise and faithful servants and worthless and hypocritical servants.
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Four things we learn from this parable.
- The glorious majestic and royal Kingdom.

Matthew 13:47-50 ---- <sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Mathew is the only book that mentions this parable.

As in any natural garden the seeds are planted and grow alongside the weeds until they are ripe and ready to harvest. This is exactly what this parable is teaching. Jesus the sower planted good seed in the world and it took root and grew alongside the weeds, now the good seed is fully ripe and ready to be harvested. At this present time every faithful brother and sister in Christ lives in a spiritual Kingdom of God established by faith. This Kingdom began with the Lord Jesus Christ planting good seed that leads to eternal life. From the time of the seed being planted in the world it has through the generations become mixed with bad seed and under the Lords instruction both have been left to grow alongside each other.

The words, "The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous" clearly show that the Kingdom in focus already exists. It is a Kingdom manifested individually in the lives of those (good and bad) who confess to believe in Jesus and is manifested collectively through the global churches worldwide amongst the nations.

**NOTICE:** the focus is the New Testament spiritual Kingdom of God not the entire world. At this present moment within God's New Testament spiritual Kingdom of God on earth there are good and bad servants and wise and foolish servants. The picture this parable paints is one of all sorts of various kinds of fish all swimming about in the same ocean waters. Fishermen throw a net into the ocean and acceptable and unacceptable fish are caught and drawn into the boat and the fishermen separate the acceptable from the unacceptable.

In the parable of the sower Jesus tells us at the end of the world the angels will come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just (Matt. 13:49). This shows us that it is the angel's job to separate the wicked from the just within God's present spiritual Kingdom because only God can know the motivation and intent of the heart.

This is why Jesus said to his disciples: -

- Let both (the wheat and the weeds) grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn (Matt. 13:30).

This parable and the parable of the wheat and weeds clearly show that within the visible global Kingdom of God at this present time there are good ministers and corrupt ministers, faithful believers and unfaithful believers. The following is only one example of how prideful, hypocritical religious leaders can distort and twist Scriptures for their own selfish gain. During my early years there were certain religious leaders teaching a prosperity Gospel and telling their congregations if they gave ten dollars God would multiply it one hundred fold, meaning God would

give them a one hundred dollar return on their investment. These preachers very skilfully used the analogy of a farmer planting seed and would highlight the reality that if a farmer never planted seeds he would never get any crops and then would tell us in authoritative and brilliant oratory that if we do not plant our financial seed God has nothing to multiply and so we should never expect to succeed or prosper in whatever we plan to do.

At one meeting a brother asked should we tithe on our gross income or our net income the minister at that time said, "It depends on whether you want gross blessings or net blessings." These deceptive religious teachers were using spiritual guilt and fear to manipulate their assemblies to dig deeper into their pockets and using those who follow them as merchandise for their own selfish and greedy gain fulfilling the following words of Peter from the King James Bible: -

- Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.

The English standard Bible states it this way: -

- In their greed they will exploit you with false words (2 Peter 2:3).

We had a certain few married couples who stopped attending the church because of the mental guilt they would come under since they were financially battling just to support their own families let alone give such large amounts of money to support a minister who was living a far more financially secure and luxurious life than they were.

For further information on giving see the title: -

- Tithing New Testament.

In, Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **Wise and Faithful and Worthless and Hypocritical Servants.**

The following verses show that there are both bad and good servants in the present spiritual New Testament Kingdom of God.

- Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, *I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness*' (Matt. 7:21-23).
- Jesus said, "And those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both *bad* and *good* and the wedding was furnished with guests" (Matt. 22:10).
- Jesus said, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather *out of his Kingdom* all things that offend and them which do iniquity" (Matt 13:41).
- Jesus said, "If that *wicked servant* says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the *hypocrites* (Matt. 24:48-51).
- Jesus said, "Cast the *worthless* (unprofitable in KJV) servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30).

These Scriptures not only show very clearly that there are both faithful and wise servants and hypocritical, unprofitable and evil servants in the present Kingdom of God on earth, but also shine a spotlight on the reality that there are corrupted religious leaders who have achieved mighty things in the Lord's name who the Lord will reject. Here is the horror of this, these people believed they had done wonderful works for the Lord and would be accepted into the eternal Kingdom of the Lord.

I think the best way to understand this is to look at the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) they no-doubt believed they were great men of God because of all their outward religious pomp, ceremony, Scriptural knowledge and their strict adherence to Moses law and religious customs and traditions, but they showed no love, compassion, mercy or grace toward those they were meant to shepherd.

Jesus said: -

- They preach, but do not practice what they preach themselves.
- They lay heavy burdens upon their followers while they live in luxury.
- Everything they do is to receive the exaltation of others.
- They love religious robes, the best seats in the churches, positions of honour and the best of everything wherever they go.
- They thrive on fame and love being exalted as someone important.

**It is interesting to notice that the only people Jesus strongly rebuked were the religious leaders of his generation, of them Jesus said: -**

- Woe to you, hypocrites! For you neither enter the Kingdom of God yourselves nor do you allow those seeking God to go in.
- Woe to you, hypocrites! For you travel throughout the nations making new converts, but by your legalism you make them worse than they were before they came into your religion.
- Woe to you, blind guides! For you exalt the glory of the building more than the glory of the Lord whose name it is built for.
- Woe to you, hypocrites! For you exalt small matters of the law and neglect justice, mercy and faithfulness the most important matters.
- Woe to you, hypocrites! For you meticulously attend to religious external matters, but on the inside are full of greed and self-indulgence.
- Woe to you, hypocrites! For you appear religiously holy on the outside but within are full of spiritual destruction and spiritual death (Matt. 23:1-29).

These religious rulers sat on Moses' Seat, the highest place of honour in the temple of God at that time and amongst the nation of Israel, yet Jesus calls them serpents and a brood of vipers.

**NOTICE:** Jesus constantly uses the word hypocrites it is not the lowly sinner who has a heartfelt and honest sorrow on the inside before the Lord and desires to overcome certain sinful habits, but fails to do so that will be rejected by Christ, but those who confess Christ and live their lives as religious hypocrites especially religious leaders who use their followers for their own gain and their own glory.

**Weeping and gnashing of teeth:** the words, "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" refer to the hypocritical and lawless men and woman who confessed to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but are rejected from entering into his eternal royal Kingdom because they were using the Gospel of the Lord and his grace for their own selfish gain and glory. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth because they believed they were superior in religious works to others and deserved God's favour because of their outward religious works and external religious achievements.

For these people religion is about appearing holy on the outside, by adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days, keeping religious customs and traditions and having a head full of Scriptural knowledge. They are totally blind to the truth that following Christ and true religion is about developing the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness) on the inside.

It is about showing justice and fairness to all mankind and helping the less fortunate and the poor when able.

James stated it this way: -

- Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world (James 1:27).

**Four things we learn from this parable: -**

1. The present Kingdom of God has all kinds of believers gathered into it; some are good and wise while others are hypocritical and foolish.
2. Those in the Lord's present Kingdom can be a good testimony to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith or a bad testimony.
3. Those who confess to believe in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ can be a delight to his heart and the heart of God or an offence.
4. At the end of this present age God will send angels to separate the wise and faithful servants from those who are foolish, hypocritical and offensive.

**A key point:** when Jesus returns he's not coming to plant or sow a Kingdom he's coming to harvest an already existing Kingdom. The harvest of this present existing Kingdom introduces the end of this age and the beginning of the new glorious age to come on earth.

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#### **FOOTNOTE.**

The following is the glorious majestic and royal Kingdom that will begin after the angels have separated the wheat from the weeds and the Lord returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles: -**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
  - The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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