

**The New Testament Church**  
**Kingdom Rising #3 – Sharing the Gospel**  
**August 13, 2023**

- I With all that is going on... *we will be examining the kingdom parables of Jesus in Matthew 13*
- A. If politics are the consequences and not causes, *where should be our priorities?*
    1. Proverbs 4:18 – **What God has saved us to is greater than what He has saved us from!**
    2. Matthew 16:18 – **God is preparing His Ekklesia for victory over the gates of hell!**
    3. Hebrews 12:26-29 – **God is shaking and exposing evil as His Kingdom rises!**
  - B. Re-claim the vital importance of the heart and mind that shapes the culture
    1. We must begin by dethroning a love of wealth, pleasure, power and evil in our hearts!
    2. We need to rehearse key Biblical thought patterns that can direct our minds...
      - a. Character – work is a godly enterprise – *when entitlement abounds, work shines forth*
      - b. Covenant – We find agreement in discussion – *opening avenues to share the gospel*
  - C. Jesus taught in parables... (Mt. 13:10-17) because the Church is the womb of the Kingdom!
    1. So hidden truths (pictures) would expose *those who are not really seeking His Kingdom*
    2. Isaiah 6:8-13 – they *expose the condition of the heart* – blessed if we “see them”
- II Matthew 13:47-51 – Parable of Dragnet – *the Kingdom rising empowers believers to share the gospel*
- A. Jesus tells a parable about fishing... it can be applied to what is happening now around the world
    1. Four the disciples were fishermen, and Jesus told parables about soil, farming, baking, treasure
    2. They were commonly understood by the listener which is important to understand
      - a. God uses the pressures of the day in which we live to get people’s attention
      - b. It is our job to understand what is going on so we can build a bridge of conversation
      - c. Illustrations of common conversations...
    3. In its context, the parable of the dragnet is a parable of the cumulative, the big picture, that individual evangelism must be seen in the context of strategic kingdom – God’s persepective
    4. The net is the Kingdom – larger than the Church – the whole world – all people
      - a. The fishermen are the believers who *desire to influence all people and cultures*
      - b. The fish represent all types of people from all types of cultures (influence of the Kingdom)
        1. We are to influence people positively, but only God knows if they will receive Christ
        2. The end of the age is at the final return of Christ – a true reckoning
        3. The angels will separate the true from the false – we are not decide now who to influence
  - B. Types of fishing in Jesus’ day and how this applies to personal evangelism
    1. What is the gospel?
      - a. All have sinned (Ro. 3:23); Sin is death; Christ is life (Ro. 6:23)
      - b. Confess Christ, believe God raise Him from the dead in your heart; saved (Ro. 10:9)
      - c. You then enter a Kingdom (John 3:7; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:7) – translated from darkness to light!
    2. Hook & line (personal evangelism) – hook on line and weight; pull with tug (Mt. 17)
    3. Throw net (initiating conversations) - 10 ft ring thrown in water – net closes as pulled (Mt. 4)
    4. A gill net (in a trammel net – strategic) – catch fish a certain size; holes (John 21 caught 153)
    5. Dragnet – 200 to 400 feet long and 6 to 12 feet high – wood to float, rocks weight it down
      - a. Twelve to 16 men (multi-church) pull dragnet through water – creating a vertical wall
      - b. It would catch everything in its path – big fish, little fish, good fish, bad fish
      - c. The fishermen would separate what they wanted and throw the rest back in or away
  - C. The parable – what is Jesus saying? (gospel never preached or received perfectly)
    1. Expect people to be drawn to Jesus today, build relationships with “neighbors”
    2. We tend to reach those like ourselves, but learn to start conversations with others
    3. Share the simple truths of the gospel in the context of your testimony, follow up if possible!
    4. Let us expect a giant harvest where we will be utilizing a dragnet with other churches!