

# The Gathering of the Fish

This parable is commonly called "The Dragnet" and is found only in Matthew 13:47-51.

## Background Thoughts:

1. Jesus had begun this chapter sitting by the sea (1) but has now moved into a house (36)



2. There are strong parallels between this parable and the tares in the field (36-43)
3. A "dragnet" was a massive net held between several boats with weights upon it
  - anything and everything could be caught in those nets
  - Not selective nor targeted
  - there were 24 different kinds of fish in the sea of Galilee (the Jews were not allowed to eat certain ones Lev 11:10-11)

- The "bad" fish were considered inedible. They were \_\_\_\_\_

4. Notice repeated words among the parables:

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5. The separation of the fish takes place later on the beach (48)
  - this is done not by the church but the angels (49)
  - before the separation, the bad and the good dwell together

## The Emphasis

While the "net" caught all fish, the basis of good and bad is the reception to God's message

- There is an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ separation at the end of the age
- There is a \_\_\_\_\_ awaiting the bad (only the future of the bad is described)
- Not everyone gathered is truly \_\_\_\_\_ to the kingdom
  - wheat and tares (Mt 13:36-3)
  - foolish and wise virgins (Mt 25:1-13)
  - unproductive vine (Jn 15:2,6)
- Simply being around the kingdom is not \_\_\_\_\_
- Difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and discipleship; attending church and belonging to Christ

Why do some expect the church to be perfect?

Why do some mistake God's patience for approval?

Who might the "bad fish" represent?

What does the net represent?