

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ *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.* ⁵¹ *“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied.” (Matthew 13:47-51)*

Those who work in fishing they know that when they will let down the net into the water and they will pull it up it will contain various kinds of fish and sea creatures. Also they know then after, they need to sit down and start to collect the good fish and put them in certain containers while the bad quality one they need to throw away.

The Kingdom of God is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught many fish. There are many who are called themselves Christians, and they are around one six of the total population of the world. That includes all kind of Christians of different denominations and who have different level of faith and commitment. Among them are people who fully committed to God. As well as among them people who belong to Christian denominations that even worship idols and teaches incorrect doctrine, to people who still live in wickedness and do evil like the rest of the world.

All those different categories of Christians they are inside the net and they are called themselves or are known as Christians because they have some sort of connection and link with Christ or Christ's name. The fish in the net are all called fish but there are those who are good and those who are bad. In the same manner there are among the Christians those who are good and those who are not doing well in their lives and walk with God.

In the parable the fishermen who sat down and separated the good fish and put them in baskets, they are also throw away the bad quality one. We may ask why did they throw the bad one, they can give it to other animals or they can use it for other purposes because still have meat and other organic materials? The answer for this question is this: the fishermen are interested to catch fish that fit for human use and good for food; so only the good one that fit for sale will be preserved and the rest will be thrown away.

In the same way, when Jesus was speaking in the parable of the net about the kingdom of Heaven, He is interested with people who are willing to live their lives for God and fitted in the way that God ordained for us to live in His kingdom. Even evil doers they can be used for different purposes but they are unfit to be part of His Kingdom if they are unwilling to repent, renounce their sins, and surrender their will and pride unto God.

Our salvation is a gift from God, by grace through faith, ⁴⁸ *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)* It is not by our own righteousness or because we have done something good we are saved. God called us from darkness and the life of sin into His kingdom and saved us because He is good. We are saved, ⁹ *“not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:9)* But after being saved we are called to comply to what God wants us to be and to do for Him, and to achieve the things that God had prepared for us to do, ¹⁰ *“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)* Are you aware of the fact that God after he saved us he is looking to see real fruit

in our lives? The following are fruits that God want to see in us; fruit of repentance, fruit of The Holy Spirit and fruit of new souls to enter into His Kingdom. God is looking for certain standard and good quality He wants to see clearly in our lives after being saved!

So we are accountable to God being His children to live in discipline of His words and commands and achieve certain things He already prepared in advance for us to do. In the book of Genesis as God was creating things and as He was looking to what He created, it repeatedly mentioned the following statement: *And God saw that it was good.*

So God always want to see us doing good things because for this reason He created us. In *Titus 3:1* it mentioned the following: *“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.”* God wants us to be ready to do whatever good that He prepared for us to do. You should not be ready to do what is bad and use what God had given to you to do what is evil. You should not do the work of the flesh that serve Satan. But to use what God gave you to serve Him.

In *Timothy 6:17-19* ⁷ *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”* What God commanded here is not to rely and trust the material things that you have and become arrogant, but rather to humble down and trust God who had given you all what you have to enjoy true life in His presence. The instruction of God's word is ¹⁸ *“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* So we are called to do the good work and to share the good things with others. If we do that then we are laying down for us a firm foundation, and will take hold of true life, the Eternal Life.

According to *1Timothy 1:18* *“Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the good fight.”* We are called to fight the good fight. The message that we are receiving through His word are prophetic messages that declaring to us the will of God in our lives. As we hold firmly to the message, we are encouraged to stand firm and fight the good fight for God. As you give your life to God and you are willing to stand firmly on His word, the devil will try to put obstacles in front of you to hinder you but you have to stand firm and fully submit yourself to God so that you can resist devil and he will flee, *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)*

My dear and beloved: “If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.” (James 4:17) There are good things you are ought to do. God will call you accountable if you fail to do what you need to do; the Lord will consider that sin. *“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied.* If you have understood the message then apply it in your life as you agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to move away from my ambition and fully surrender my will and plan unto you. Lord I am willing to follow your steps and do the good work that you prepared for me to do. Give me strength, patience and the provision to achieve that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.