

Thy Kingdom Come: Fishing in the Kingdom

Reflect

1. How would you describe yourself?
2. How do other people describe you?
3. How would God describe you?

Read Your Bible

1. Revelation 21:1-8
2. Matthew 13:47-52

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Read Matthew 13:47-52. Jesus uses the imagery of fishing to illustrate what will happen when the fullness of God's kingdom comes to be. "All kinds of fish" are caught up in the net of this parable. Why do you think Jesus made the distinction of "all kinds" instead of just "all?"
2. Who does it benefit to visualize "all kinds of fish" in the net in this parable?
3. Like fish, all people will be caught up and then separated. These can be hard words to hear because we will have no control over the process. Which is harder to imagine and why: being caught up and grasped by God, or being divided/separated?
4. If we have no power or say in the separating/dividing process, why would Jesus tell this parable to His followers?
5. Read Revelation 21:1-8. The image of God's kingdom, when the fishing nets have done their job, is more fully depicted here. What word or images stand out to you?
6. What image of restoration speaks to your heart the most?
7. God invites us to reflect on what our eternal home and what life will be like when we die to this broken world so it can influence our present life. How is the Spirit calling you to be transformed as you reflect?

Conclusion

Often fishermen are specific in what species of fish/crustacean they are fishing. However, Jesus is the ultimate fisherman, inviting and catching "all kinds" of people in His net to share in His heavenly kingdom. The parable of the fisherman reminds us that our ways are not God's ways and there is much we cannot control. Because of this Jesus gives us every opportunity through His teachings and sacrificial love to prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's Holy Spirit and be made new. To be ready for the day when we will see God face to face and live with God forever. To live in the promise when "there will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Pray

Lord Jesus, we praise You for who You are, what You've done for us on the cross and empty tomb and for Your teachings that reveal heavenly truths to us. We confess that Your ways are not our ways and so often we forget that it is You, not us, who are in control. We thank You for the promise of eternal life through You, for giving us an eternal future and a hope. Help us to trust more fully in You and follow more closely in Your ways. In Your name we pray. Amen.