

Truth Revealed: The Parables of Jesus
Part #6 – Truth Made Clear: Painting the Picture of Freedom

Matthew 13:47-52

Series Summary

Have you ever wondered why Jesus often spoke in parables? The answer is that Jesus spoke in parables in order to reveal the Truth in a way that the people would never forget. Join us as study through Matthew 13 and God's Truth is revealed to us in way we will never forget through the parables of Jesus.

Sermon Summary

Freedom. There is a difference between freedom and the appearance of freedom. Are you free or are you in bondage? Many may not find the answer to this question until they have to give an account.

Theme Passage:

Matthew 13:16 – “Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.”

**Big Idea: The Message of Freedom Has Been Delivered...
 Understand it, Embrace it, Share it!**

Main Passage

Matthew 13:47-52 – ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; ⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. ⁴⁹ "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes." ⁵² And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Painting the Picture of Freedom

Core Question – Who are you most passionate about seeing saved?

- We begin our time together by examining this question. Each one of us know of one person or more that do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Begin asking yourself, who are you most passionate about seeing saved this day. Is it a family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker? Who has God laid on your heart that you have a burden for this very day?

Point #1 – We Must Clearly Understand the Picture of Freedom

- The last two parables that we examine in our series is found within Matthew 13:47-52. The first parable is very similar to the parable of the “Wheat and the Tares” in reminding the disciples of the reality that every single individual upon the face of the earth will give an account to the Lord on the day of judgment. Some will enter into eternity while others will not.

Matthew 13:47-48 – ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; ⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away."

- **John 8:36** – "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
- **Key Point** – The first point that we examine comes to us from reflecting on verses 47-48. It is within these verses that Jesus paints a very clear picture of the approaching "Day of the Lord." It is upon this day that mankind will either face judgment or experience freedom. Keep in mind, that each individual will experience one or the other. Freedom as described by Jesus in this text is found through Christ alone and means eternal freedom.

**If we understand this vivid image about freedom
then how are we compelled to respond?**

...Response to the Lord

...Response to the Wounded & Hurting

...Response to the one we are most passionate about seeing saved

Point #2 – We Must Clearly Understand the Price of Opposing Freedom

Matthew 13:49-50 – ⁴⁹ "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- **Mark 9:43-48** – ⁴³ "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, ⁴⁴ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] ⁴⁵ "If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, ⁴⁶ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] ⁴⁷ "If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, ⁴⁸ where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.
- **Key Point** – The second key point that we examine comes to us in verse 49-50 where we observe Jesus explain the parable for the disciples. Jesus clearly describes the meaning of the parable and speaks about the sobering reality of judgment. At first, some might think it strange to end a series of parables about the Kingdom with the image of judgment. The great desire of our Lord is to see people avoid judgment therefore out of love He paints a vivid picture of the price of opposing the freedom that is offered through Him alone.

**If we understand this vivid image about the consequences
of opposing freedom then how are we compelled to respond?**

...Response to the Lord

...Response to the Skeptic

...Response to the one we are most passionate about seeing saved

Point #3 – We Must Be Compelled to Share the Key to Freedom

Matthew 13:51-52 – ⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes." ⁵² And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

- **2 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV)** – Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.
- **1 Corinthians 9:16 (ESV)** – For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
- **Key Point** – The final key point comes to us in verses 51-52. It is within these verses that we observe that Jesus wraps up His lessons about the Kingdom by commanding the disciples, who now have seen the benefits and consequences of accepting or rejecting the Kingdom of Heaven, to carry out the message of Freedom to the world around them. As Christians we are also compelled to carry

this message to the lost, hurting, and wounded this day. We have been given the key to eternal freedom through Jesus Christ, now what will you do with that knowledge.

What are different ways that you can share the message of freedom with the one you are most passionate about seeing saved?

Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) – For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Application

Project Truth – As we discover more about the parables of Jesus, we discover how and why we should communicate the Truth of God’s Word to the world around us. Throughout this series: (1) Commit to reading through the Gospel of Matthew, (2) Commit to a Sunday school class, community gathering, or small group and learn more about the Truth as found in the Word of God, and (3) Share God’s Truth with at least two people over the next six weeks.

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