

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Standing on Kingdom Ground  
Sermon #9 Title: The Culmination of the Kingdom  
Sermon #9 Text: (Matthew 13:47-52)

Now we have come today to the last parable of Matthew 13. Not necessarily the last message, but the final parable. – And It is the promise that All things Christ is doing, will come to an end!

In the song of Moses back in Deuteronomy, he sang of the foolishness of Israel even then, and in so doing, wrote, “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!” – Deuteronomy 32:29

- I can think of nothing more foolish, or more tragic, than someone who refuses to think about their ultimate destiny.
- And the glory of it is, it does not have to be a mystery!
- there are only two destinies for man, and Christ has laid out the path to both!

As Christ began this series of parables, He taught about all things pertaining to the time between His first coming, and His second and final coming, and in this final parable He ties all things up for us to see and understand.

One of the things that makes this final parable stand apart from all the other parables is that Jesus gives the interpretation at the same time that He gives the parable.

- He gave the interpretation of the Soils – at a different time and place than He gave the parable of the soils.

- He gave the interpretation of the Wheat and the Tares, but at a different time, and place that He gave the parable of the tares.

\*Note – On both of those occasions, He gave the parable in public, and the interpretation in private...

- In the parable of the mustard seed, Christ taught it in public, but gave explanation at all.

- In the parable of the leaven, Christ taught it in public, but gave no explanation at all.

- In the parable of the treasure in a field, He gave that parable in private, with no explanation.

- In the parable of the pearl of great price, He gave that in private, with no explanation.

- This is the only parable of the seven, that Christ gave the parable and the explanation at the same time, and He did so in private.

It is not difficult at all to get the picture of the parable, it is Christ unveiling to His disciples the Final Judgment of God on earth, at the end of the tribulation period.

- It is a Simplistic picture, of God's final culling of humanity.

(Jewish, and Christian scholars alike – often refer to the “rule of three” in their studies of Biblical parables. – That may be where Baptist preachers get it, but this morning we too pay attention to three primary points of the parable.)

## I. The Age To Know – “So shall it be at the end of the world”

\*Note – The first thing that Jesus emphasizes in the parable is the time that He sets our attention on. He declares that it is “in the end of the world.”

(Whatever you may think about the symbolism, the Lord Himself declares to us this comes to fruition at the end of the world.)

- What then do we know NOW, about what will happen THEN?

### ***A. The Finishing of the Work*** – “was cast . . . is gathered”

1.) “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, (dragnet) that was cast into the sea, and gathered in of every kind.”

2.) To the disciples, who were mostly fisherman, and those that weren’t were so acquainted with the life, and lifestyle that they got the picture too. – This was a description of the ongoing labor of the kingdom.

- What did the disciples know about the dragnet?

1.) It took team work, - it took more than one person to work the net...

2.) It took time – this is a picture of commercial fishing, not leisure fishing, and would constitute the bulk of time.

3.) It took tenacity – “fished all night, and caught no fishes”

(Here’s the simple picture of the fisherman, fishing until he is finished)

- What does that mean for us now – Right now, in 2020, we are in the time of “dragnetting.” The net has been cast into the sea, but it has not yet been “gathered in”

This parable pictures the activity of kingdom in our present...

- The net is cast...
  - the gospel is being preached – some people are receiving it, but most people are rejecting it...
  - mustard plants becoming mustard trees are all around us...
  - counterfeit Christianity (Tares) is so prevalent, people are confused about who to trust...
  - Doctrine has become so diluted and contaminated, that many people have just disconnected from the Lord's churches altogether.

While the net is being cast, people have flocked and are flocking to a “visible Christianity” but not to “Biblical Christianity.” – Yet the net still drags on.

- There will be the “Finishing of the Work”

***B. The Features of the Work*** – “every kind”

- 1.) When a net is dragged across the bottom of a lake or sea, it is indiscriminate in what it gathers.
- 2.) The Gospel net, the kingdom net, the Christian work, “gathers and attracts and catches every kind.”

The visible, and popular version of Christianity attracts “religious people” and “moral people” and “good citizen people”, and “social justice” people of all kinds, clamoring to be “considered, esteemed, or admired, as good.”

The visible Biblical work of Christianity goes on, even with all this mixed in, and it will gather in “repentant sinners,” it will catch those who “know they are sinners and in need of a the

- That is “our time period” from beginning to the end.

The Parables have been one clear filter differentiating between those who are Rightfully Standing on Kingdom Ground, and those who are trespassing.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!



What is to become of all of humanity that will not be redeemed by Christ? – They are put where waste was put, in the furnace.

(EVERYTHING OUTSIDE OF CHRIST, is WASTE)

### ***B. The Fury of the Lost***

1.) “There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

- that is the physical and emotional reaction to being inside the fire of judgment.

\*Note –Our Lord explains to His disciples that they will be forever conscience in their destruction of their destruction as they are living in the destroying...

- wailing speaks of their emotional pain...

- the word means lament, or to weep – weeping

- gnashing of teeth speaks of their physical pain, it literally means the grating of the teeth...

\*note – This is the end result of the 3/4ths of the soils. This is the end result of the tares... This is the end result of the mustard monstrosity – this is the end result of counterfeit Christianity....

Conclusion: - Now the Parables of Matthew 7 have taken us from the “Beginning of the Kingdom – the Kingdom of heaven is at Hand.. – the Culmination of the Kingdom – all that is false will be separated from all that is true... the false will be put in the furnace, and the true will be gathered to the King...

Savior,” it will catch those who “turn to and depend upon Jesus.”

- Every kind, will ultimately be boiled down to Two Kind...

- the good and the bad

- the saved and the lost

- the redeemed by Christ, and then the rest

\*Note – Life may seem complicated, and confusing to you, but it isn’t to Christ! There may be multiplied millions of nuances in professing Christianity to you... but not to Jesus. You may think that this is all convoluted chaos, and no one can be certain of anything, therefore we have to make room for all kinds.... Christ doesn’t. It is very simple to Him!

- Every Kind, is going to settle out to 2 Kinds...

### ***C. The Fullness of the Work – “when it was full”***

\*Note – Now right now it isn’t full. But here is the key to understanding the timing of the end of things. – When the kingdom net is FULL!

- that’s not what I said, that’s what Jesus said...

- When the net has gathered all that it is going to gather!

- this is not what the Bible calls the “fullness of the Gentiles” – because the Kingdom is broader than the Gentiles.

- this is not the church, because the church and the kingdom are not one and the same.

- this is the fullness of the gospel offer, and the end of redemptive history.

(Notice once the net is drawn, the fishing is over.) – No more offers to be saved. No more redemption to take place.

- Now when is that going to be?

- Well it is going to be at the end of the tribulation period! – How do we know that?

- that's when the net of the gospel message will be full...

\*Note – While the Apostle Paul was teaching the Corinthians about the doctrine of the resurrection, he explained this also, saying – “But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.” – 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:23-24

- Get the picture:

- Christ comes – that's at the end of the tribulation...

- then cometh the end....

- then the Kingdom, (without all of the tares, without all of the “bad fish”, without all of the falsehoods) – will be delivered up to God by Jesus Himself.

\*Note – This parable is the period on the Kingdom work of God.

- The list of parables takes us from the “Propagation of the Gospel, to the Culmination of the Kingdom, and takes us from the first coming of Christ to the second and final coming of Christ.” – From the farmhouse to the courthouse, it is the picture of a full and final work when Christ is finished.

- Matthew 7:13-14 – “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

- Jesus said twice – “Many are called, but few are chosen”

Matthew 20:16; Matthew 22:14 –

So in this parable, and in the wheat and tares He points to two things relating to the Agony to note...

**A. The Furnace of Fire** – “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire.”

1.) vs 42 – “And shall cast them into a furnace of fire.”

\*Note – For the most part in the minds of disciples the “furnace” was a general term. There was a myriad of kinds of furnaces and different use furnaces throughout their history. From Brick-Kilns, to ovens, to smelting of ores, even to the cremation of bodies.

2.) The furnace is a place in which fire is used to purify by destruction.

\*Note – Even for the saved, the Bible says that “our works shall be made manifest by fire.”

- The Bible says of the lost, that to the unbelieving is nothing pure...

3.) The picture here is of the fire in the permanent state of “destroying” the wicked. – When we bring in the rest of the Bible we understand that they will never be “destroyed”, but they will always be “in the destroying...”

\*note – It appears that their primary work is going to be the physical retrieval and removal of all those who are not redeemed.

- that means they can tell the difference between the wheat and the tares
- that means they can tell the difference between the good fish, and the bad fish
- that means they can tell the difference between those who are under the Kingship of Jesus Christ, and those who are not.

\*Note – Now all of that being said to this point, the Lord explains Age to Know – the end of the world, the Agents to Notice, there will come Angels who will gather and will separate.

III. The Agony To Note – “shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

\*Note – It should be noted that in both the parable of the wheat and the tares, and this parable of the dragnet, there is more emphasis and explanation placed upon what happens to the rejected by God, than the redeemed of Christ.

\*Note – Christ gives the greater information on those who have rejected the kingdom, than those who have entered it.

Why? – Let me say here and now, I don’t know why He gives more information here about hell than He does heaven...

- BUT, for me, and in my heart, and my mind, because according to the gospels, there are more people going to the furnace than to the vessels....

- Jesus points us to the Age to know.

- The second thing that Christ draws attention to in the parable is the Agents we are to notice.

II. The Agents To Notice – “the angels shall come forth”

\*Note – This is the second parable that introduces and emphasizes the arrival of an angel army to do His arresting work.

#### *A. The Arrival of the Angels*

\*Note – Three times throughout the list of parables, Jesus tells us that in the end, there will be an angelic invasion...

- 1.) vs 39 – “the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels.”
- 2.) vs 41 – “The Son of man shall send forth His angels.”
- 3.) vs 49 – “the angels shall come forth.”

\*Note – These angels are depicted by Christ as not here now, but will be then.

\*note – What are these angels – “angelos” and it means, “messenger.”

- It is a generic term that often gets applied to preachers and pastors, and in some cases are literally so.

- However it is also applied to the heavenly beings, that are a little above men, who serve the most high God, and are as real as the Bible itself.

\*Note – now here is the Biblical picture of an Angelic Army invading the earth with Christ, at His coming. This is going to be an intensely horrible sight for those who refuse to bow to Jesus.

- Christ puts in the parable, the same things He taught during His ministry...

**Matthew 24:31** – “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

**Matthew 25:31-32** – “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:”

- Or in this parable how a “fisherman divides the good fish from the bad fish”

\*Note – (Just a note of reference – a large portion of our world is obsessed with the idea that there will be an alien invasion of earth one of these days. The scientific community is wide open to the idea that there is intelligent life out away from our planet, and will one day come to earth, and they are just hoping that they won’t be hostile.)

- Here are the facts –

- 1.) There will be an extra terrestrial invasion – an invasion of the Angel Armies of heaven.
- 2.) They will arrive with the Lord Jesus at His coming.
- 3.) They will also arrive with “ten thousands of His saints” that will also arrive with Him.
- 4.) It will in fact be a complete and total takeover of planet earth.

\*Note – All throughout the Bible, we have been given glimpses of these angel armies, or angel warriors...

2 Kings 19:35 – “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Kings 6:17 – “And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Matthew 26:53 – Jesus spoke of “twelve legions of angels.”

\*note – now whatever the Bible tells us about “angels” it certainly tells us of their arrival at the “end of the world.”

### ***B. The Arresting by the Angels***

- 1.) vs 39 – “they will reap the harvest”
- 2.) vs 42 – “they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend.”
- 3.) vs 49 – “shall sever the wicked from among the just.”
- 4.) Matthew 26:53 – “gather the elect from the four winds”

\*Note – The picture is clear, they will do the physical gathering of humanity, and the separating of humanity at the time of Christ’s judgment.

\*Note – Now in this list of parables, the emphasis is placed on their dividing work as it relates to the lost...

\*Note – Twice Jesus spoke specifically of their work upon the wicked...

- vs 42 they will “gather all things that offend”
- vs 49, they will “sever the wicked from the just”