

"WISDOM IN FISHING"

Matt 13:47-48

When pioneering I went fishing with a dragnet. Huge net almost 100 ft. in length, weighted on the bottom. We anchored one end, and a guy rowed out in a boat with the other end and made a huge loop/coming back to shore. We then dragged it to shore, and it caught all kinds of fish/weeds/trash. Great picture of pioneering.

I. WISE RECOGNITION

A. A great picture of the church/pioneering: A dragnet

1. Simple reality: **All kinds of people will be drawn into a church**

a. Not all are sinners/saved b. Not all are good/bad c. Not all are helpful/harmful d. Not all have the same personality

1. **Matt 13:47** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

2. If we fail to take this into account – we will come to wrong conclusions/responses

a. You can reject good people b/c of negative responses: *This person is bad – all people are bad*

b. You can push too soon b/c of your personality preference or experiences: *When I got saved, I never missed a service...*

B. We have to recognize the truth of bad fish

1. Some who are drawn into our nets are not helpful – may even be harmful

a. **Matt 13:48** Which, when it was full, they drew to shore... and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

2. **Some people are not helpful/are harmful – but not by deliberate intent**

a. They have a personality/characteristics that will repel others

1. *Guys who don't bathe – they stink!* 2. *Grating personalities* 3. *Unwise with new people: Jamming/overloading*

b. Some people are naturally draining:

1. Mooches who expect you to do everything for them: *Give me a ride/money*

2. Time dominators: *VDP's - Very Draining People*

a. Want to spend every service talking to you b. Constant counseling – but don't listen

3. **Some people are not helpful/are harmful – by their very nature**

a. Religious people who want to infect others with their doctrine – want to dominate

b. Rarely: *People involved in witchcraft*

4. **Some people are sent by hell: Matt 13:28 wheat/tares an enemy has done this...**

a. Classic strategy of hell: Consume/distract/discredit/run good people off/discourage

1. Every pioneer in the world will have to deal with bad fish!

II. WISE SORTING

A. Our script shows a powerful truth: Some sorting is required

1. Sometimes the bad fish have to be sorted out/dealt with

a. **Matt 13:48** Which, when it was full, they drew to shore... and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

2. Simple truth: You treat good and bad fish differently: Gathering vs. casting

a. This is not prejudice – it is wisdom! Don't let the bad fish ruin the good/ruin the mission

B. Wise sorting

1. You sort people by not fawning over religious people 2. You sort people by not allowing them to dominate you

3. You sort people by limiting them: Don't stand at the door/don't pray with people/don't ask for rides/\$

4. You sort people by dealing with them supernaturally in prayer: Paul rebuked the spirit in Acts 16

5. You sort people by getting rid of them if necessary: **V48 but cast the bad away...**

a. Overall this requires spiritual discernment and wisdom

1. *Who is good/who is bad* 2. *How should I deal with them wisely?*

a. *Ask God for wisdom* b. *Get counsel from Pastor: I note men who struggle don't want to ask/do what I say*

III. ULTIMATE LESSONS

A. **You have to have some good fish!**

1. Quality converts are the foundation of any church – especially a pioneer church

a. *If you're content to play with religious people/odd people – you will never build a church*

2. Real conversions must be contended for

C. Ultimately God is in charge of His nets/His fishermen/His fish

1. **Matthew 13:49** So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

a. Only God can do the separating perfectly b. Only God can bring good fish into our nets

1. **Jesus: Let down your nets on the other side for a catch of fish**

a. He knows where to find them b. He knows how to bring them c. Knows how to change them

b. **Luke 5:6** When the fishermen did as Jesus told them, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break.