

**Matthew 13: 47-50; “Success and Failure in Fishing”, Session # 5 on the Parable of the Dragnet, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the Adult Sunday School.**

**Matthew 13: 47-51** – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.” “So it will be at the end of the age.” “The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire.” “There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” “Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” “They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

**1. Success in Fishing for Men**

**What is it due to? It is due to God’s working in conjunction with our labors as Christians and churches in helping to cast the Net of the Gospel.**

**God’s Saving of Sinners as shown in Ezekiel 47: 1-10 –**

“Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea.” When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.”

**We have seen thus far:**

**Success Comes in Fishing** when the waters of God’s Holy Spirit come savingly into contact with the sea of men’s sinful hearts, and His precious waters heal their sea. This is true of both individual men and shall be true of nations of men in time to as the gospel conquers among the nations.

1. The temple in this Predictive Parable represents the New Testament Church
2. The Waters flowing out from under the threshold are the living waters of the Holy Spirit.
3. The increase of these waters in depth represents the way that the gospel makes progress among the nations of the world.

4. The Man with the measuring line in this Parable is Christ. He is measuring out the depth of the waters and where they will go directionally, in this world during the whole of the Church Age.
5. The Measuring Line that He is using represents the Scriptures and what is being measured is the depth of doctrinal and spiritual comprehension which comes about as the Church Age goes on and greater understanding of the truth and practical godliness comes about in the lives of God's people in every generation.
6. That when the waters of the Spirit reach the Sea of Sin which all people swim in, the sea is healed in regard to the persons whom God chooses to save; all those who will believe in the Gospel of Christ as it is preached and proclaimed to them.
7. The Fishermen of verse 10 represent the apostles and all gospel ministers and preachers who will be fishing for men with the gospel net, in all generations. Example of Peter in Acts 2: 36-42

## **2. Failure in Fishing for Men. Why is this?**

### **a. The Failure is not in the Gospel.**

**Isaiah 55: 1-3a** – “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat.” “Yes, come, buy and eat.” “Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.” “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?” “Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.” “Incline your ear and come to Me.” “Hear, and your soul shall live...”

### **b. The Failure is in the resistance of men to the Gospel and their Rejection of Christ.**

**John 5: 39 & 40** – “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” “But you are no willing to come to Me that you may have life.”