

PARABLE OF THE FISH NET

Matt. 13:47-50.



1. Matt. 6:1-2.

(K. 18:9-13; James 2:24; Matt. 7:21.



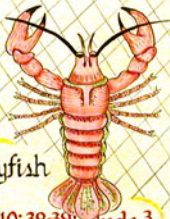
5. Acts 15:37-40; 2 Tim. 4:10.



8. Mt. 11:7-11; Eph. 6:10, 11, 13.



2. 1 Jno. 5:21-22; 1 Cor. 15:33.



6. Crayfish

Heb. 10:38-39; Jude 3
2 Tim. 4:7; Acts 19:8.



9. Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Jno. 9-11.



3. Mt. 7:3-5; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rom. 2:21-22.



10. Eph. 4:31-32.



4. Psa. 119:105; 1 Jno. 1:7.
1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Jno. 9-11.



7. Gal. 6:7.
Eph. 5:6-11; 1 Jno. 4:1.



11. 1 Cor. 15:58; Mt. 7:24-25.

THE PARABLE OF THE FISH NET

Matt. 13:47-50

INTRO: A parable is an earthly teaching with a heavenly meaning. The Savior used many parables in His teachings. Let us use this parable to see if we can learn some things that will help us examine ourselves. Let us cast the great fish net into the church, instead of the world, and see what kind of fish we find in the kingdom of God.

I. GOLD FISH.

As we draw the net in, the first fish we find is our brother Gold Fish. What is he good for? He is only good to look at. He is not edible. We have heard of college students swallowing live gold fish so they could feel them move around in their stomach before they die, but we do not eat gold fish. What are they good for? Just to swim around in a bowl and put on a show. Some church members are the same. They are like the Pharisees. Matt. 6:1-2; Luke 18:9-14. Notice what Jesus said in, Matt. 5:16. We must let our light shine, not make it shine. Our good works will be known without us sounding our own praises. We must work as Christians, not just to be seen as workers. James 2:24; Matt. 7:21; Matt. 13:50.

II. MUD CAT.

As we look into the fish net, the next fish we find is old brother Mud Cat. Old brother Mud Cat is known as old bullhead. He is found in muddy water and known for his filthy appetite. The rottener the bait, the more you catch. Some members are like the mud cat. They have filthy appetites; they are found in filthy places feasting on rotten indulgences (beer taverns, dance halls, rotten movies, etc.). They cannot stand the clean atmosphere of the church. Paul tells us: 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Cor. 15:33. When the net is drawn in old brother Mud Cat is also going to be cast into the furnace of fire.

III. GOGGLE EYE.

This fish is known for one outstanding characteristic, his big eyes. He looks around and sees everything. We have some members who are all eyes; they are just looking to find fault. Old brother Goggle Eye is always finding fault with something or someone. Matt. 7:3-5; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rom. 2:21-22. Old brother Goggle Eye is going to be cast into the furnace of fire along with old brother Mud Cat and brother Gold Fish. There will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

IV. PERCH.

As we reach into the fish net, we pull out old brother Perch. He is small, but he is good for food. He really puts up a fight. He is a good fish! He lives in the sunny parts of the stream. He stays in the light. He knows if he gets into deep dark holes, he will be swallowed up by big fish lurking in the dark. Some members are like the perch. They stay in the light. Psa. 119:105. Brother Perch stays in the Word; he walks in the light. 1 John 1:7. Brother Perch knows that old Satan is always after him.

1 Pet. 5:8. Brother Perch has nothing to do with those contrary to true doctrine. 2 John 9:11. When the great fish net is drawn in, old brother Perch will be put into the vessel and kept while the others are cast away.

V. EEL.

As we look again into the net, we find old brother Eel. He is known for being slippery. I have heard the expression slick as an eel. At Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, I saw a basket full of eels. I waited until no one was watching, then I stuck my finger on one to touch it. Wow! Was it slick. Some brethren are like the Eel; they are hard to hold. Just as you think you have a hold on them, they slip out of your hands and are gone again. Brother Eel represents the independent person in the church. Just like John Mark. Acts 13:13; Acts 15:37-38; 2 Tim. 4:10. When the great fish net is drawn in, old brother Eel will be cast into the furnace of fire.

VI. CRAYFISH.

Looking into the net, we find old brother Crayfish, also known as old Crawdad. He is known for his ability to travel in reverse. Some of our brethren are known for their ability to travel in reverse. They will launch out boldly, but if someone puts a little pressure on them, backward they go. They will not stand. The Hebrew writer says: Heb. 10:38-39. Christians must remain faithful. We must not slip back into the world. If we do, our last state is worse than the first. 2 Pet. 2:20-22. We must contend for the faith. Jude 3; 2 Tim. 4:7. We must be bold for the truth. Paul spoke boldly for three months in the synagogue at Ephesus. Acts 19:8. Old brother Crawdad will be cast unto the furnace of fire.

VII. TROUT.

As we look into the fish net again, we find brother Trout. He is a good fish. He is always alert; he is wide-awake. He is hard to deceive. Paul said: Gal. 6:7; Eph. 5:6-11; 1 John 4:1. Old brother Trout is a good fish; he will be kept with old brother Perch, while the others will be cast into the furnace of fire.

VIII. JELLY FISH.

Watch out! The next thing we see in the fish net is old brother Jelly Fish. He is known for the fact that he has no bony structure. He has a wish bone for a back bone. He floats whichever way the wind blows. Jesus said, when speaking of John the Baptist, "What went ye out into the wilderness to behold? a reed shaken in the wind? But what went ye out to see?" Matt. 11:7-11; Eph. 6:10-11; Eph. 6:13. There is not a place for the Jelly Fish in the kingdom.

IX. TADPOLE.

Next we find the Tadpole, also called a Polliwog. He soon changes into something else. He grows two legs in the back part of his body; then grows two in the front. Before you know it, he changes into a frog. (I have found, in moving to a new location, to be careful of one who makes over you and puts on a big front; he will usually change on you.) Be

careful! Some brethren will change on you; some change from the Word. Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11. We must not change, but be the same. Be like God in that with us there is not variation, neither shadow cast by turning. God stands firm! We must do the same, not changing from His Word. We must be able to be counted on, stand firm, be the same, and quit changing. Old Polliwog (Tadpole) will be cast into the furnace of fire.

X. ELECTRIC FISH.

This fish is only found in the Belgian Congo River. He has the ability to give off a shock equal to a six-volt battery. He slowly moves his way next to an unsuspecting fish, then touches it and shocks it to death. Some brethren will shock you. They can be as mean as the devil wants them to be with the things they say, the things they do, and the way they treat you. Eph. 4:31-32. Old brother Electric Fish is going to receive his reward. He will be cast into the furnace of fire along with Tadpole, Jelly Fish, Crawdad, Eel, Goggle Eye, Mud Cat, and Gold Fish. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

XI. BLACK BASS.

Finally we take out of the net old brother Black Bass. He is excellent for food. He feeds on natural food. He fights fiercely to the very end. Thank God we have some members of the church like the Black Bass. They are ever loyal and keep fighting the fight of faith until the very end. He is very clever and hard to deceive. 1 Cor. 15:58; Matt. 7:24-25.

CONCL: Matt. 13:49. Not all in the kingdom, the church, are going to be saved. We need to be like the Perch, Trout, and Black Bass so we can hear in that day, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world" Matt. 25:34.