

**Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?**

**Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).**

**If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.**

**We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.**

**Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?**

**Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.**

**James 1:1-12**

**THE PARABLE OF THE NET**

**Matthew 13:47-52**

**Main Thought:** In the parable of the net, we have a picture of God's future judgment and find encouragement to share the good news of the kingdom of heaven.

1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PARABLE. (vv 47-48)

2. THE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PARABLE. (vv 48-52)

1) The \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment. (v 49)

2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment. (v49)

3) The \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment for the \_\_\_\_\_. (v 50)

4) How does a person become \_\_\_\_\_? (Matt. 4:17; 2 Cor. 5:21)

5) In light of the coming judgment, Christ followers have an \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of heaven. (vv 51-52)

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read Matthew 13:47-52.

2. To what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven in this parable?

3. What do the fishermen do with the fish once the net is pulled up on shore? What would distinguish good fish from bad fish? (See Leviticus 11:9-12)

4. Why would this have been a common sight for people to witness in Galilee and one that the disciples would have been very familiar with?

5. In what way does this fishing scene express some aspect of the kingdom of heaven?

6. Who separates the wicked from the righteous at the time of the final judgment? (See also Matt. 13:40-41)

7. What is the eternal destiny of the wicked? (See Matt. 7:21-23; 13:42; 25:41-46; 5:21-22, 29-30; Mark 9:43-48)

8. What distinguishes the wicked from the righteous? How does one become righteous? (See Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:21; Mark 1:15; John 3:1-8, 16-21)

9. What does Jesus ask his disciples in Matt. 13:51? What things have they (and we) learned about the kingdom of heaven from the parables of the kingdom in Matthew 13?

10. What are they (and we) to do with the lessons we have learned about the kingdom of heaven? (v 52) How will you take action this week based on this passage?