

## SERMON NOTES: February 15, 2026

### PREPARED to PARTICIPATE?

Matthew 13:47-58

#### I. Understanding the Playing Field - 13:47-48

#### II. Understanding how the Game Ends - 13:49-50

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind;”

Matthew 13:47

#### III. Understanding your Role - 13:51-52

#### IV. Understanding you Obstacles - 13:53-58

And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure new things and old.”

Matthew 13:52

## Life Group Study Questions

### **PREPARED to PARTICIPATE?**

Matthew 13:47-58

1. Have you ever been lost trying to understand a game, sporting event, or something else? What was that like?
2. What aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven do you find confusing or hard to understand? How does this passage help?
3. Jesus' parable of the dragnet is very similar to the parable of the wheat and the tares (Mt. 13:24-30). What similarities can you find, and what do they teach you about God and His Kingdom?
4. Many people function without any regard for God or His Kingdom. Does this mean they are outside His authority? Why does He allow this willful rebellion to happen?

5. The fact that the end of this age is coming tells us that God will not endure rebellion forever. It also informs us that there is a point at which the opportunity to come to salvation is over. How does this contradict popular thought?
6. The picture of Hell that is painted in 13:50 is truly awful. Jesus spoke about hell more than any other person in Scripture. Why do you think this is true? Why do we so often avoid the topic, and is that helpful?
7. Jesus asks His disciples if they “understand” His teaching concerning the kingdom. To understand means more than just being able to comprehend something. What does it mean according to Mt. 13:23?
8. True believers have come to faith in Christ and now live to be ambassadors of the Kingdom. Why does Jesus compare such people to “scribes”? What are they called to do, and with what kind of attitude?
9. The people who are often closest to us are also the ones who resist the Kingdom the most. Why is this, and what should we do in response to their rejection?