

RECAP

As you reflect on this past week, were there any opportunities to point others towards the treasure of the Kingdom in your sphere of influence?

IDEA 1

Read Matthew 13:47-50.

- What is your initial response to this parable?
- What thoughts/feelings come to mind about the sorting of the good fish and bad fish?
- What do you think Jesus wanted his hearers to take away from this parable?

IDEA 2

Here are a few talking points from Rob's sermon. Discuss as a group:

"Culture, philosophy, even the church have given us many perspectives on what constitutes a good fish and what constitutes a bad fish. Scripture often uses the terms the righteous and the wicked."

- If you went and surveyed your neighbors, your classmates at school, your co-workers how would they define a good or bad person?
- In what ways do you think your perspective would be similar or different to theirs?
(You may like to read through Romans 3:22-26 as you consider your responses)

"As unpopular as it may be in our culture today - let me stay true to our text. The parable of the net tells us: Separation is coming. Justice will be realized. Judgment is real."

- Why do you think God's justice and judgment described in this parable are unpopular beliefs in our culture today?
- If separation is coming and justice will be realized and judgment is real, how should that impact the way that we live in our spheres of influence, neighborhoods and the nations?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Behold: Start by beholding God's patience.

Read through 2 Peter 3:8-9. Pause and allow space for people to reflect on the text, then read it one more time.

Believe: Declare who God is.

Read through this prayer of declaration together.

Jesus,

Your judgments are perfect.

Your authority is trustworthy.

Your justice is comprehensive.

Your righteousness is unequalled.

Your warnings are loving.

Your words are truthful.

Your mercy is incomparable.

Your invitation is all-encompassing.

Your help is reliable.

Your safety is sure.

Your rewards are beyond generous.

I celebrate Your reign, King Jesus.

Behave: Respond by repenting and remaining

Read through the following questions and listen for Jesus' response.

- **Jesus, what are you asking me to repent of?**
- **Jesus, what does it look like for me to remain in you in this season?** (If you haven't already, consider fasting something for Lent)

APPLICATION

"In the proper time it will all be sorted out. It hasn't yet happened because God is patient and merciful and wants all those created in His image to find the treasure He has made accessible with His death and resurrection."

Continue to pray for people in your spheres of influence that don't know Jesus.