

Week 22
February 15, 2009

Are You a Keeper?
The Parable of the Net
Matthew 13:47-52

1. READ Matthew 13:47-52.
2. Read Keith's manuscript from this week's message.
3. Discuss the ways that Jason's sermon amplified or differed from Keith's version.
4. Americans have a dogma of *relative goodness*, "I'm not as good as Mother Teresa, but I'm not as bad as Charles Manson. So, I'll see you in heaven." Where do these notions of heavenly qualification come from?
5. Why do you think that people who are truly committed to righteous living can be targets for cynics and persecution?

9. This parable can be frightening. Is this fright good or bad for us? Why?
10. Some people might over-use the “turn or burn” approach to sharing the gospel. Others might under-use it. What do you think?
11. Jesus seems to redefine righteousness in active terms – the truly righteous are active and avid lovers of humanity. Is this true of you? Why so? Why not?

For the hardcore group:

What will judgment day be like? Who will be there? What role will Jesus play? What role will angels play? What about the Father and Holy Spirit? If you are forgiven of sins, will they still be recounted, or are they pardoned and forgotten? Will anyone be given a second chance to repent in light of their expanded knowledge of who God and Jesus are? (If you need other scriptures to guide your conversation, consider reading Matthew 24-25 together. You can also look at John 12:44-50, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 2:1-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, James 4:11-12, Revelation 8:9-17, 20:11-15.)

