

THE KINGDOM IS LIKE...

PART 5: SEPARATION & THE SON

MATTHEW 13:47-58

It's as though Jesus is saying with all possible emphasis:
"There is a coming judgment, and the fate of the ungodly will
be terrible in that day."

-James Montgomery Boice

I. The Parable of Division

II. The People's Division

Getting to Know You:

1. What do you consider to be your personal “hometown”? Why that one?

Into the Bible:

2. The saying “familiarity breeds contempt” certainly applies to Christ’s experiences in his hometown of Nazareth. Read Luke 4:16-30 for His treatment as he announces the beginning of His ministry. They admired His grasp of Scripture until he used it to challenge their unbelief. What does this tell us about His humanity during His life as a young man in Nazareth? Why would the unbelief He met there keep Him from doing miracles? Read Matthew 12:38-42 for a hint.

Application:

3. Verses 47-50 give us a theme given clarity in Christ’s teachings—that of final judgment. See Matthew 25:31-46 for another example. Thinking through these passages can seem difficult, or threatening, or even reassuring. How do you view the doctrine of final judgment? If we are to truly “love our neighbors” how do we best act as we look forward to Christ’s return?

4. For the Jews of Jesus' day, the scribes were tasked with knowing and applying the Old Testament scriptures. In verses 51-52 Jesus expands this for his disciples to include teaching the new truths of the Kingdom. Jesus maintained His respect and use of the wisdom of the Old Testament, however. Read Matthew 5:17-18 in this regard. Our approach to using the Old Testament should be similar. II Timothy 3:16-17 and Acts 20:27 give us Paul's approach. How well do you know the Old Testament compared to your knowledge of the New Testament? Should you work to correct something that may be out of balance?

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about value of knowing the Old Testament.