

# The Kingdom of Heaven is Like a Net Let Down in the Lake

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Our Lord Jesus spoke of seven parables in Matthew chapter thirteen, regarding what the kingdom of heaven is like. Just as the parables tell us, God is sowing His seeds. He uses parables to portray the different reactions men have when confronted with the truth of the gospel, and to describe the different phenomena of the church in different time periods. In the last parable, He said, "the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down in the lake..."

Perhaps the seven parables are describing the path of the church in human history, from the past into the future. Then, the holy work of spreading the gospel in the end time will be like "letting down the net".

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age..." (Matthew 13:47-49)

"This is how it will be at the end of the age." We do not know if the net that Lord Jesus spoke of is "the net" today, but we do know that evangelism at the end time will have to reach many different human races as vast as the seas. Each human race has its own unique daily living, eating habits, cultural backgrounds, and different ways of logical thinking. To evangelize such as we did in Asian communities in the past - talking to our neighbors, inviting them to evangelical services, long term truth seeking and doing follow-up, being rooted and watered through the counsels of constant church service attendance, frequent visiting and pasturing seems no longer possible. Applying the same methods on various human races and long distance evangelism is unrealistic. There are even some countries where Christianity is prohibited by law, which further strengthen the wall that is difficult to break down by church missions or individual evangelical work.

We are in need of a "congregation" that is global, deep in truth, and worship services that can provide spiritual resources all day long. We need this and a team closely connected like the threads of fabric, to spread the true gospel, to shepherd and guide - a so called internet church.

Currently, we receive e-mails from North America, Australia, and Europe, as well as from Arabian countries, Pakistan, and even Nepal on the IA english web page. This seems to be the gleams of light before the end of darkness, especially when we receive letters of inquiry from areas where religions are strictly controlled.

We want to know what type of net Jesus was speaking of letting down in His parable. We only know that there is this net casted down in the vast world of internet with no specific targets. When the net is pulled up, it is always one net after another. Until now, we have found that there were some who did not hear what God says (John 8:47; 10:26,27) and were thrown away. There were those who took our publications to benefit themselves or to use as their own sermon materials. However, there were also those few who humbly sought salvation and truth. After they have been edified by receiving the spiritual food on the internet, they followed up at local churches, and were thereafter collected in baskets just as described in the parable.

In addition to the IA English website, there are currently evangelical web pages in Indonesian, French, Spanish, and Mandarin. The construction of web pages in many other languages such as Korean, Japanese, German, Malay, Russian, and Portuguese are all under accelerated construction and revision, with some near completion. The addition of some languages were proposed by youth volunteers who have hearts in this holy work, and they have asked IA to organize seminars and training to help them in this work. After the addition of these languages, we will have a larger and more closely interconnected website.

During the World Delegates Conference, many delegates expressed interests in the evangelical work on the internet. We have also found that IA workers in internet evangelism are lacking and there is still much work to be done. We could conduct internet evangelism symposiums to recruit volunteers and to discuss the complete plan so that they will actively participate and serve. The International Assembly have decided to hold the first Global Internet Ministry Planning Symposium in Taichung from March 26th, 2010 to March 28th, 2010, inviting from all countries, internet evangelism workers and members who are interested in participating in this holy work to discuss the strategies and plans. Concurrently, we would like to recruit gifted brethren to build a website together that will be more appropriate for global access. We also hope that ministers can participate in the seminar to build a tighter connected web base where information and resources can be coherent and shared. If we can use this opportunity to have internet evangelism workers from different GAs and CBs meet each other, share their experiences, examine the bottle necks of our current situation, and plan for the future together, we must be able to gain a more forward looking direction in internet evangelism at IA.

May God guide us, so that ministers, holy workers, brothers and sisters who have heart in the work of internet evangelism may all apply and participate. And may God guide us in His direction. Amen.

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