Case of the Great Dragnet Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 13:47-50.
- B. Review.

1. The gospel is the declaration to human hearts what is wrong with humanity—that they are not living on God's provision within them.

2. God wants to sow His people.

3. The devil will sow his people.

4. Jesus came and gave all that He had in order that He might purchase the secret of prosperity.

5. God would fashion a completely new people in God's great program—the church.

II. The parable of the great dragnet.

A. The last secret is the character of the gospel that forces people out into the open and exposes them.

B. Outwardly, many accept the gospel but inwardly many allow it to make no changes and play the hypocrite.

C. God commands men everywhere to repent in righteousness because He has appointed a day for judgment.

1. In Jesus Christ is the secret for the provision of lost humanity.

2. A person must act on it—change will result from accepting it but death will result from denying it.

D. Angels will expose people at the end of the age—hypocrisy will be revealed.

E. The result of the separation will be damnation.

1. Jesus speaks more about judgment than anyone else in the New Testament does.

2. He is indicating that at the end it will no longer be possible to hide at the end of the age.

F. The only possible way of survival is honesty—when we say what we are, the healing of Jesus Christ is able to change us.

Application questions:

1. Why is it necessary that a man be exposed for what he really is?

2. What is the proper response to God's future exposure of a man?

3. What areas of your life require exposing to God? Write them below and spend some time in confession before God.