

## The parables of the net, sheep and goats

CHARACTERS: 3, C should be younger and inquisitive.

PROPS: (optional) net

SETTING: seashore or boat

RUN TIME:

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 13:47-52, 25:31-46

A: Whatcha doing?

B: Sorting the fish.

A: Sorting fish? Like Dr. Seuss's one fish, two fish, red fish blue fish?

C: Not really. When we throw out our nets, we catch good fish and bad fish. The good we toss in these baskets to sell and the bad we throw away.

A: Like separating the food you like to eat from the stuff your mom wants you to eat. (*makes a face*)

C: (*chuckles*) It is like the kingdom of heaven.

B: It reminds me Matthew 25 when Jesus talked about separating the sheep and the goats.

A: Why does he do that? When?

B: Jesus comes back in his glory, with all the angels and sits on his glorious throne.

C: Everybody will be gathered before him so he can separate the righteous people one from the unrighteous people just like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

A: Jesus is the good shepherd, right?

C: Right. Jesus will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

B: The goats will go away to eternal punishment,

C: It will be like a blazing furnace, lots of tears and darkness.

A: How can you have a blazing fire and darkness?

C: Hydrogen and ethanol fires are invisible.

B: NASA even built a machine to detect invisible fires since rockets use hydrogen fuels.

A: You guys are really smart.

B: Smart enough to know the sheep, AKA the righteous, will inherit eternal life.

C: (*wistfully and with longing*) To an eternal kingdom prepared for the sheep, or righteous people, since the creation of the world

A: (*slowly and worried*) How do you know if you are a sheep or a goat?

B: Jesus explained it in one of his parables.

C: Sheep or righteous people feed the hungry

B: Give drinks to the thirsty.

C: Invite strangers to their house.

B: Give clothes to people who need them.

C: Visit people who are sick or in prison.

A: So being kind to poor people or strangers and the sick is important.

B: Right. Jesus considers what you do for others, including people considered less important by the unrighteous, as if you did it for him.

A: I want to be on the good fish and sheep side.

B: Me too

C: Me three.

Information on invisible fire

<http://www.popsoci.com/diy/article/2008-01/fire-without-flame>

<http://spinoff.nasa.gov/spinoff1997/ps1.html>