

I. INTRO:

- A. In **Matthew 13** we have a record of some of the parables that Jesus uttered. Spoke of...
 - 1. Sowing seeds, different types of soils, mustard trees, leaven,
 - 2. Wheat & tares, hidden treasure, Jewel Merchant
- B. Beginning in **verse 47** he offered up a parable about catching fish. **Matthew 13:47-50**.
 - 1. Likens the catch to men, both good and bad.
 - 2. Likens the discarding of bad to final judgment & eternal punishment of the wicked
- C. The Lord's lesson really hits home once you start to think about it.
 - 1. Many folks do have the characteristics of certain types of fish
 - 2. For instance some folks are like...

II. BODY:

A. Catfish.

- 1. Thing about catfish is that they prefer the muddy bottom, down in the filth.
- 2. Moreover, catfish eat just about anything, including the foulest of garbage.
- 3. **Application:**
 - (a) All of mankind, (if), becomes just like the catfish.
 - (b) He forgets God goes sinking into the filth – starts to feast on the vilest of things.
 - (c) Some proof:
 - (i) As we begin to read through the Old Testament we quickly **Genesis 6:5-7**.
 - ◆ It was not long before man had become so wicked - so much like bottom feeding catfish - that God decided to wipe and start afresh (**1 Peter 3:20**).
 - (ii) Yet, mankind so tends to flirt with the ways of the catfish that even an entirely fresh start does not change the situation.
 - ◆ Paul reminded the Romans... (**Romans 1:21-32**).
 - ◆ Time for honesty - are you a catfish? If so, please repent.

B. Puffer Fish.

- 1. This guy, for various reasons, constantly (true to his name sake) is puffing up.
- 2. **Application:**
 - (a) So many folks in society are just like the blowfish – they regularly puff up.
 - (i) Big \$, nice home, couple of cars or more, - forget the source of all blessings.
 - (b) Expect it in the world, but there are Puffer Fish who sit in church pews as well.
 - (i) You know it is true and so do I.
 - (ii) **OH**. - On and on it goes and it is all so much against the will of God.
 - ◆ **Prv. 6:16-17a; 8:13; 16:5; Matt. 5:3; Mark 7:22-23; Rom. 1:30 James 4:6.**

C. Gold Fish.

- 1. The thing is they certainly attractive to the eye, but they are worth very little.
 - (a) Cheap to buy. Nice for showpieces, but that is about all.
- 2. **Application:**
 - (a) We all know goldfish: So many politicians are simply goldfish.
 - (i) People eat up their rhetoric and because they have a nice exterior.
 - (b) Applies to those who claim to be spiritual giants as well:
 - (i) Pharisees - ; attractive to the eye - not worth anything to God (**Matt. 23:27-28**).
 - (ii) Church – fill pews/carry Bibles, but in reality worth very little to the kingdom.
 - (iii) Maybe it is you, or has been you; it has been me in time past.
 - ◆ God does not want Gold Fish.
 - ◆ **Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:22; James 2:17-18.**

D. Jelly Fish:

- 1. These guys have no spine.
- 2. **Application:**
 - (a) Many jellyfish in the world today, but let's just stick with the church - **OH**.
 - (b) God does not need jellyfish in the kingdom.

E. **Lobster.**

1. The lobster is frequently moving backward; traveling in reverse.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) We have all known spiritual lobsters from time to time:
 - (i) Start off with a bang, make grand claims, but digress from the path.
 - (ii) As a result they have some horrible facts to face, unless they repent.
 - ◆ *Hebrews 10:38-39; 2 Peter 2:20-22; Luke 9:62.*
 - (b) Let's be sure we are headed in the right direction and press forward.

F. **Clown Fish.**

1. Clown fish are not satisfied with God's plan for the church – instead they turn it into a carnival atmosphere filled with fun and games.
 - (a) They treat assemblies like social meetings – this is not a social function!
 - (b) These folks do not care about reverence and they care little about Bible authority.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Many in Denominational - *John 4:24; Heb. 12:28; Col. 3:17* mean little to them!
 - (b) 100,000's of folks who can rightfully be likened unto the clown fish. – **OH.**
 - (c) Again, passages like *John 4:24; Heb. 12:28; Col. 3:17* mean little to them!
3. Were clown fish in the N.T. times - condemned for their actions (*1 Cor. 11:17-34*).

G. **Goggle-eye:**

1. The thing about the Google-Eye is that he has giant eyes.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Many Xians likened unto goggle-eyes in that they have great big eyes and have made a habit out of noticing faults (deem) in others - **OH.**
 - (b) Not saying (*John 7:24*) (*Matthew. 7:20*) (*Titus 1:10-11*), but whatever happened to self-examination? - *2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 11:27-28.*
 - (c) Are you a goggle-eye?

H. **Big Mouth Bass:**

1. They have an extremely large mouth, and it is usually open.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Some folks are the same: they have big mouths with too much to say.
 - (b) Unwise to say the least:
 - (i) *Proverbs 10:19; 13:3; 21:23; 29:20.Ecc. 5:2; Matthew 12:36; James 1:19.*
 - (ii) Like careless fish – bites big lure - destruction - big mouth's reward (*Prv. 18:7*).
 - (c) Will actually eat one another, if they can get a smaller one in their mouth.
 - (i) We need to be careful that we don't do the same. *Galatians 5:15; James 3:9-10*
 - (ii) Don't need big mouths in the kingdom – won't be big mouths in heaven.

I. **Rock Fish.**

1. This fish blends in perfectly with his surroundings – he fits right in.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Rock fish fill pews on Sunday and Wednesday – we know it - **OH.**
 - (i) We are not supposed to be like the world; we are supposed to be much different: *Eph. 4:22-24; 1 Pet 1:15.*
 - (b) Are you a rock fish – would people know you are a Xian if you never told them?

J. **Parrot Fish.**

1. This is an interesting character in that he looks very much like a parrot.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Not many look like parrots, but many who talk like parrots - "Parrot Talk"
 - (i) Saying things without having a clue as to what is actually being said or why.
 - (b) Plenty in church who cannot give a logical, thorough answer to why they say what they say spiritually, but are blindly following the traditions/beliefs of others – **OH.**
 - (c) Your/heart/ Hope within you *1 Peter 3:15* – not in another.
 - (d) Are you a parrot fish?

K. Angler Fish.

1. A predator that uses flashy bait to draw weak fish in to his jaws of death.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Bible speaks of these: *Ephesians 4:14; Romans 16:17-18*.
 - (b) Plenty in the religious world hiding behind their flashy promises. **OH**.
3. What a catch so far... good news is there is more... it is not all bad news!

L. Trout:

1. Trout are dandy fish – any sportsman will tell you.
 - (a) Good appetite and grow rapidly.
 - (b) They are active. They fight powerfully to the finish.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Would to God that there were more trout in the kingdom.
 - (b) We are supposed to be like trout:
 - (i) Have a good appetite and grow rapidly (*1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:15*)
 - (ii) Be active (*Ephesians 4:16*).
 - (iii) Fight powerfully to the finish: *2 Timothy 4:7-8*.
 - (c) Can you honestly say you are a trout? If yes, then also a...

M. Sword Fish.

1. Swordfish are called such for obvious reasons. Use it for both defense and offense.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) We too have a sword (*Ephesians 6:17*) and need to use it in the same ways.
 - (b) There was a time when many more Christians were swordfish.
 - (i) Knew the book. Today we know lines from sit-coms and movies.
 - (c) Are you a swordfish; are you known for your ability wield the Word of God?

N. Star Fish.

1. Easily identifiable – unlike the rockfish it stands out in a crowd.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Christians are supposed to be Star Fish – *Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:14*.
 - (b) I have known some starfish in my time – **OH**.
 - (c) Are you a starfish- can you honestly say that you stand out at school, work, etc?

O. Salmon.

1. These fish swim upstream – they go against the grain.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) Live in a world that constantly seeks to pull us in its direction down the broad road.
 - (b) Being a Christian takes work – we too must labor to swim against the current.
 - (i) *Luke 13:24; Titus 2:11-12; 2 Peter 3:10-11* - **OH**.
 - (ii) Are you a salmon? Do you go with the flow? – “Only dead fish...”

P. Snapper.

1. The thing about snapper is that they swim in schools:
 - (a) Protection from enemies – safety in numbers
 - (b) Easier to CD/GU a fish swimming alone, than trying to attack a group.
2. **Application:**
 - (a) The simple fact of the matter is that God’s people have a better chance to survive the attacks of the devil if they are around other people of God.
 - (i) David knew (*Psalms 133:1*). Solomon drove this point home (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*).
 - (ii) Jesus knew (*Mark 6:7*). One purpose... (*Hebrews 10:24-25*) is to exhort so as not to fall prey to the world.
 - (b) Are you a snapper?
 - (i) Do you long for the opportunity to assemble with the saints?
 - (ii) Are you at every assembly?
 - (iii) Do you try to be around Christians as much as is possible, or do you think you can make it on your own?

III. CONCLUSION.

- A. Hopefully we will give serious thought to the parable Jesus spoke in *Matthew 13:47-50*.
- B. The catch is coming. Are you prepared?