

The Unbroken Net

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Romans 7:14-25

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. [15] For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. [16] If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. [17] Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. [18] For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. [19] For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. [20] Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. [21] I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. [22] For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: [23] But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. [24] O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? [25] I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

God has investment in us and he expects returns. According to Matt 13, some of us return to God 100 fold, some 60 fold and some 30 fold. Those are the profitable ones; but some return nothing. We do not belong to that class! The lord is expecting returns from the investments and indeed, he has made much investment. For what he invested in us is the most precious thing to him, his only begotten son.

What he expects in return is that each of us should yield our all unto him. But what we give back to him is not equivalent to what we even in our own human estimation, expect that we will give back to God. I believe very strongly that we have come to another place as evident from the prayers that have been prayed; and from the leading that the Lord has given to us, and from the words of prophecy that have gone forth. He has told us that he is with us and that if anybody wants to contend with us, that person is in trouble. May we take those words to heart as we match on.

Luke 5:1-11

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, [2] And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. [3] And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. [4] Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. [5] And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. [6] And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. [7] And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. [8] When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. [9] For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: [10] And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee,

which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. [11] And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

This particular story has to do with when the Lord was beginning his ministry and he was gathering his disciples one by one. We can also find it in Matt 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20. They were washing their nets because the whole night had been a night of fruitless labour. They had given up hope that there was any other thing to be done because the night's catch is supposed to be processed in the morning. By this morning, there was nothing caught, so the people were washing their nets in despondency. Then Jesus Christ entered the boat. If Jesus is not in the boat of your life, the very likelihood is that you will never catch any fish; you will only be one washing your empty nets in the morning. In verse 3, he prayed him, begged him to roll a little away from land. It is in the same measure that Jesus Christ comes to us saying "...behold I stand at the door and knock...".

Simon Peter had 2 alternatives – He could have said sorry, I am tired, I have laboured all night. I am not sure I want to go back; after the labour of the night. And you will see that at this particular point, it was no longer in his interest by human estimation, to do anything like fishing, so he prayed him – and that is how the Lord prays us everyday as we came to the place of prayer, the place of fellowship the place of worship. He is beckoning on us to come in deeper and deeper into him. The problem we experience can be seen in Rom 7, the flesh is always doing battles against the spirit

We should take special note of the fact that in spite of the frustrations of the night, Peter made himself available unto God, and for any who is available unto God, there is no room for the enemy to dwell. There is no room for the enemy to become a champion

Luke 13:31-34

The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. [32] And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. [33] Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem. [34] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

That is the voice of the enemy threatening Today, tomorrow, the day after are all occupied for us in the plan of God. For as long as I do that which the Lord has asked me to do, there is no vacancy; no room, opportunity, no hold for the enemy to come in. so, he could speak boldly to one who was the fleshy king at that time. Go and tell that fox... On the third day, the Lord was to be perfected; so, all of their days between now and the perfection, there is no room available for Herod to operate. It is the same with us. If we are able to yield our all, there shall be no room for the enemy to operate; and God shall have good reports, more than 100 fold return

The Lord taught from Simon's boat. The man was exhausted. All Peter wanted to do was to go and sleep and prepare for evening work. The Lord had work to do and needed his boat. And Peter made himself available. Jesus may not be there to speak man to man, but he is there with us every moment of the day. David said that when he was on the mountain, God were there, in the sea, everywhere he went, he is there... in the farm, in the school,... The Lord is with us everywhere we go. If you cannot hear him, remove the wax from your ear; if you cannot see him, wash your eyes and let the scales drop. The other thing is to pray for the heart to be broken so that whatever he says, you will hearken to his commandments.

You carry Jesus Christ wherever you go, so, the instruction will come from inside of you, not from outside. You are the temple wherein he dwells. So he is always beckoning; and usually, some of the instructions that come are not acceptable to us, or to our flesh; some times they sound foolish; some times they sound impracticable. Nevertheless, we should obey as Peter did. Evidence abounded that there was no fish there by his experience. We can hear him saying, “ I have been here all night, I have not gotten anything; if I am going to do this, I am going to do this because you said so; not because I agree -- at thy word I will do it “ So, when the road is rough lets just obey the counsel of the Lord for the hour.

In the Garden of Eden, the Bible tells us that God came and conversed with Adam in the cool of the day. That means that in the light of the spirit of the moment. That is how God counsels us. You may be here, and he gives you direction to go there and when you get there, he says, go on to the other place. Obey as it comes and it will never fail. In verse 6, we see the beginning realm where your net may break. In the finished picture, no matter how the multitudes of fish are, the net will not break The failures of the present should not discourage us.

Let us take a few practical examples. We go out preaching to people, repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand; sometimes you preach and the person comes. He accept the Lord, and he yields his all; but I tell you that if you preach to 100 persons in Benin City, many may not heed the call and receive the gospel delivered. Thus the net breaks and multitude of the fish will go away and few will be remaining inside. In another dimension, the word of God comes to us and I can attest that today alone, there has been three words of prophecy to us. If we were to ask each of us to repeat what the Lord said in prophecy, I can bet you that 90% of us cannot remember. That is broken net. God gives us instructions personally – in dreams, trances, word of knowledge etc.. How will it be if all the instructions that are given to us abide, then we shall indeed be sons

Brethren, we shall not have broken nets in our lives. It’s a beautiful thing that Peter obeyed and he caught many fish and look at what he told the Lord, “Depart from me for I am a man of sin..” The result of his obedience to the Lord must have shocked him. But it was just a part realm; it would be better than that.

Isaiah tells us that when king Uzziah died; the spirit of pride and self-exaltation died, his eyes opened, and he could see beyond what he used to see. His eyes of understanding were enlightened according to Ephesians. He could now see the heights and the depths, the length and the breath of the mercies of God that were available unto him. I saw the Lord high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple, (the train talks about the helms of his garment, which refers to power) It was only after the purging that Isaiah (Isaiah 6) could hear the voice of invitation saying “Who shall I send, who will go for us?” When Uzziah dies in us, we will see God. When that spirit of self-exaltation and pride is taken away, you will find that you are just you. You don’t need anything, you don’t ask for anything personal; nor seek human glory. You don’t ask for people to like you because it is not necessary; you just do as the Lord has said. Even when we are unable to tell who we are, our lives shall make the difference Isaiah could see God because he had had a new experience and when God said whom shall I send who shall go for me, Isaiah said here I am, send me.

We can ask, where did the multitude of fish that were on holiday all night come from The fish was inside the water, but how come they all gathered in the same place at this particular time? That just one cast of the net filled two ships. Since the net broke, it means it was not only the contents of the 2 ships that was initially caught; some fell back into the water. II Cor 5:17 – is a popular memory verse when you start this journey. If any man be in Christ. Jesus Christ died

on the cross of Calvary for us. He declared that it is finished and so the veil, that carnal veil that had been separating us from God has been broken. The redemptive work, which comes with opportunity to be able to climb from one level to another until we come to full salvation.

What we are looking for as believes is salvation, and the road to that salvation is redemption, but included in that redemptive work is the creative ability of the Lord. It is not the man that started the journey that ends it. There are transformation processes on the way that makes the new man who becomes a son of God. So, in redemption, there is a creative activity included so, as you journey in the Lord, old things are passed away, and new graces set in. So you can utter the word to create and recreate. There are some who were born defective. We know the person at the temple gate who was born lame Peter, when they got to the gate; (the man was expecting coins like others will give to him, which would keep him where he had always been); said Silver and Gold have I none, but at the name of Jesus, rise up and walk...” What happened, the man that did not have strength in his leg to stand suddenly stood. So, creation took place because of the work of redemption. Then is creation included in redemption. The command of the Lord to cast the net to the right must have done something --- the fish were not there all night. But Jesus Christ knowing the needs on the man where boat he used did something. So, I am sure that as he was ministering from the ship, all the fish in the sea were all gathering in anticipation of the command to come. The Lord had need of them. There was a magnetic attraction of those fishes from wherever they were; I am sure some may have swam long distances to be part of it. At the command to cast the net to one side for a drought, those fishes must have on their own struggled to enter the net because the Lord had spoken. That is it, what was not there will be there; what did not exist will exist for our sake, because the Master had commanded it.

When they had brought their ship to land, they forsook all and followed him. They forsook all; even the shipload of fish, the bible did not record that they waited to process the fish. That is the same call that is upon our lives; that is the stage where we have come to. Some of us have been on this journey for 15 to 20 years and you hold on to the world with one hand, and hold on to the Lord with another. When you try to go this way, the world pulls you another way and so, the **returns** to God have always been limited, ten –fold. If we manage to make 30 fold, we thank God, but quite often are unable to be a pleasure to God’s heart, as Noah was.

But, the time has come as we have come to another resting place that we should forsake our all. It’s an instruction to all of us. The Lord expects now that we should forsake out all, and when we do that, brethren, we cannot lack. We are tormented by fear, that’s why we struggle so much in the world. Some of us do it because of pride, we want to be like the other people, the people of the world. I am not saying that you should be lazy; because a man that does not work is not fit to live. But, when you forsake your all, you work according to the instructions of God. He tells you what business to do and when to do it. When to go out and when to come in

In John 21:21 we see another experience, but praise be to God, this time, the net was not broken. The Luke 5 experience was at the beginning of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 21, he had concluded that earthly ministry. He had been crucified and resurrected. It would appear that experience Peter and others in John 21 was another potential disaster. Peter did not receive instruction to fish. I’m sure he was bored. Now that the master is not there... let me return to what I have always known, that old life – I go fishing. And the others said since you Simon Peter, big man of God want to go fishing, we will all go with you. The others practiced second hand religion as the Jews in the wilderness, who did not want to hear from God. They wanted Moses to hear for them. God does not have grand children. We all have

direct access to him. They laboured all night for nothing.

The Lord told Peter – Simon, loveth thou me more than there? He said love you Lord. Loveth thou me more than all these, car, reputation, achievements etc. Peter said Lord you know that I love you. Again the Lord asked him and again Peter insisted. Am sure he was perplexed, agitated and most have wondered what kind of questions he was being asked over and over again.

The Lord said – when you were young, you could go wherever you pleased (like last night, when you went fishing and caught nothing). But when you are old, you shall be led to the place where you do not want to go. The instructions that the Lord will give to us now as individuals and as a group may be such instructions that do not agree with us, but the word of the Lord is do as the Lord has said. Peter said I go a fishing and the others say I also go with you. So, professional fishermen laboured all night and had no meat. And he said to them, cast the net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find.

Is it not the same right side that has always been there? Is it not the same right side? Am sure they cast it to the right, left, front and back of the ship and caught nothing all night. Do you have any meat? Now that you went of your own command, what is the result? Nothing. Ok now, you cast the net at my own instructions, you know what, he said at the beginning --- we have laboured all night and caught nothing, but at thy word, I will do it. Now, he said cast it to the right.

- To the right hand side of instruction
- To the right hand side of directions
- The right hand of righteousness, through we shall be established (Isa 41)
- To the right hand side of focus and God initiated vision and they cast the net to the right hand side of the ship of life.
- When Jesus Christ is not there, it is emptiness, but when he appears on the scene, old things pass away. He said, behold, I will do a new thing...

This time, the net did not break. At that 1st time, they had encountered Jesus, but he had not resurrected in them. The new life had not taken full root but at this time after the resurrection, there is a new order, the net can no longer break. When there is a breaking forth of the spirit of God within us, we shall be led totally by Him, for as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. A son of God cannot make mistake; he cannot take the wrong step because God reveals his mind to him ahead of time. He cannot go a fishing and not catch. He cannot go into business and make a loss; the enemy cannot put his hand upon what belongs to him. God is the creator of heaven and earth, of him, through him and in him are all things, everything is under subjection to him and therefore, who can oppose him. You cannot even talk about Satan where God is because Satan is God's creation; he means nothing, God created him, he cannot question God; he cannot oppose him, nor challenge him.

Brethren, our nets shall be unbroken as we yield ourselves to the Lord. They cast the net, multitude of fish, and yet, the net was not broken When Jesus Christ is resurrected in me, it is a new life and new experience all together. I might remain the same person physically. But there is something new inside.

It pains the Lord when one of his saints die; not necessarily to stop breathing, it is when there is a separation between you, and the father because what he expects is that you and him should be one because Jesus declared that I and my father are one. Jesus Christ never had his own at any point in time. He always acted as his father did. We are joint-heirs with him!

Peter was one disciple that acted on the spur of the moment. When the Lord said who am I, he said you are Jesus Christ the son the living God. Jesus said, blessed are you Simon bar Jonah; on this rock I shall build my church. The next moment, Jesus said, I shall go to Jerusalem, I shall be crucified ... Peter said Lord, why should you say that type of thing. One moment in the spirit, the next moment he is out. Are we not all Simons? Now in the spirit, God gives you walk out boldly; talk to anybody; and the next moment, you are down to the earth ...

A broken as a contrite spirit is what the Lord wants. If you are exercising yourself as a broken as contrite spirit, God will help you, but if you are exerting yourself because you want man to honour you, you are nothing. When Peter mounted the pulpit to preach, the people marveled especially the Pharisees who were the learned men of the day. They said is it not this illiterate, the un-lettered fisherman? How come? God had done wonderful work in his life. The Christ had resurrected and peter was a new man. May we all be new men. When Jesus Christ arises in the inside of us, when there is that glorious resurrection we will forget about ourselves. We will for sake all and there shall be no going back; whether it is temptation or it is trial. And that is the beauty that was in the early church.

Verse 8 says they dragged the net instead of pouring them into the ship. When they got to the shore, they met fish and bread already prepared; they did not even need to take from the one they were dragging to shore; yet the Lord Jesus did not go with them to fish. When we are truly in the Lord Jesus we will have no need unmet. It amazes me that most of the things we struggle for, we do not need them. Jesus Christ never bought a horse, but the day he needed one he said, go into town, you will see a colt tied; tell the owner, the master had need of them. The owner did not say who is this master; he did not say disciple I do not know you. He came and he used it. When he needed money, he said Peter, you are the fisherman, go into the river and catch the 1st fish, open it up, there is money there for you. He was preaching and they needed to feed the people. The food of the very little boy was taken and when he blessed it, there was abundance of food available. There was no time Jesus Christ needed anything that it was not in abundance. Cast your cares upon him for he careth for you. The Lord shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. The Lord prepared a meal for them and invited them to come and dine.

The Lord has promised us good things; we should not be afraid of the enemy, he has taken care of them; we should not be afraid of what to eat; he prepared the fish and the bread before they came ashore. We should not be afraid of whatsoever it is; he created all things for his pleasure, he has given all; his life, which is the highest investment, you can make on anybody. If nothing else, God expects some returns like a good businessman, God expects 100 fold; not even 60 fold or 30 fold. May we find grace to be able to yield our all to the Lord; that our net at any occasion will not be broken. There shall be abundance of fish, abundance of instructions, abundance of whatsoever is good that God has given unto us. Amen.