

The Scribe

"Every Scribe which is instructed into the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" - Matthew 13:52



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WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS -PART 2

This message was preached by Brother Amos, on the morning of Friday the 16th May, 2014, at the May 2014 Convention of Bible Faith Tabernacle, Lagos, Nigeria. This message has been split into two, as the full message during the Convention was too big to make one Scribe. So, this is the first of two parts of the main message, *WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS*. It is a deep and wonderful probe into the role of fishermen.

I welcome everyone to this Convention one more time, in Jesus' name. It is good to be together again. May God bless the gathering of the saints.

Yesterday, we started the message we have up on the chart, titled, *WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS*, only giving an introduction of it, for we dealt mainly with its sub-topic, titled, *Why It Had To Be Shepherds*. As I said yesterday, we cannot consider why it had to be fishers, without first knowing why it had to be shepherds; because we must understand why God used shepherds under the Old Testament, as the men, who carried the message of God in the main, to His people, the men God set in the ministry over the nation of Israel, in comparison, as well as in distinction to the use of fishers under the New



Testament. We also saw yesterday that the primary duty of a shepherd is the feeding of the sheep. And if men can give so much sacrifice just for mere sheep, God cannot require any lesser dedication for the feeding of the souls of His flock. Natural shepherds feed natural flock, on a natural level, a carnal level; but on a spiritual level, spiritual shepherds feed spiritual flocks, for they feed the souls of the flocks of God, who are God's predestinated children, for it has eternal consequence. There is only one thing that can feed the souls of the flocks of God, and that is the Word of God, for it is only by the Word of God we can grow, spiritually speaking; it is the only and exclusive food for the souls of men. Therefore, once a ministry fails in the presentation of truth, then he becomes a failed shepherd. He may build a house for his members; he may buy cars for them; he may do anything and many things for the members of his assembly, and they may love him to death because of these things; but if he fails

in the feeding of their souls, brothers and sisters, he fails in all. Because all those things that he gives them, the house that he buys for them, (and I am only using it as an extreme example); the money he gives to them; the help he renders to them, though good and commendable, and however wonderful, cannot help their souls one dime, being fleshly inputs in their lives! All such carnal or temporal investments are meaningless and valueless when the rapture comes, for they do not touch the souls of men, being fleshly things, things that profit only the flesh! There is only one thing by which the flocks of God can grow and be transformed, in true readiness to meet Jesus in sky in the rapture, and that is by being adorned in their souls with the revelation of the Word of life: It is by feeding their souls with the eternal truths of Jesus Christ, for there is absolutely nothing else that can take its place! Full stop! That is exactly why the paramount obligation of a shepherd is to feed the flock with the Word of God,

and that is precisely why God also takes this responsibility seriously, judging shepherds by it. That is that about shepherds. Now we want to hurry along, as we plunge straight into the main focus of this message, **WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS.**

Yesterday, we read from the Gospel of Saint John Chapter 1, and closed the message, to continue it this morning. Just pray for me today, that God will help me. I was telling Brother Edward yesterday night when he came to see me about my voice, right after service... I told him that since Tuesday, the devil has attacked my throat, and I have been struggling with my throat since then. Yet, before this Convention, I deliberately rested my voice, and my voice was okay, up until Tuesday. I know this is just the devil at work, buffeting my body, trying to hinder me from preaching, but it is well. Last night, my throat was on fire, and it hurt real badly, but I cried to the Lord after service to

have mercy on me; because I felt, just how am I going to do this? The Convention has only just started, and I have a long way to go. How am I going to be able to take the messages the Lord has laid on my heart for this Convention unless He helps me? Brothers and sisters, infirmities of the flesh are things we sometimes struggle with in the ministry, for God allows these things; but I am trusting God to see me through. I say that to ask you to please pray for me. Let us take John Chapter 1, as a stepping stone into our main text for this message, and it states in verse 17: ***“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*** The law came by Moses, and when God sent Moses with the law, we see from the record he bore, beginning with the Book of Genesis, that the prophetic ministry God set over the nation of Israel was constituted from the fold of shepherds. However, the Bible says right here that Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ, meaning that

the New Covenant came by Jesus Christ. And when we come to the days of Jesus Christ, there was a departure or a change in the earthly vocation from where God got a good number of the men He used as the head of the New Testament ministry. Whereas under the law, God went to shepherds, out of which vocation He got His men, making prophets out of them, under grace, the Lord Jesus came to fishermen, and took His men from that vocation, making apostles out of them, showing evidently that there was a change in the vocation from which God got His men in that day, who make up the head of the New Testament ministry. Come with me to our principal text, which is Mark Chapter 1, verses 14-20, which records: ***“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel. Now as he***

walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for THEY WERE FISHERS. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become FISHERS OF MEN. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.” Brothers and sisters, these men were fishers by trade; they were fishermen. And unknown to them, God had His eye on them. Unknown to them, they were also going through a schooling in that day, just as Moses did in the wilderness, for little did Moses realise in that day as well, that he was being trained by God, because he needed to be a shepherd first, and

acquire the necessary experience that would help him in the shepherding of the flock of God, which is the nation of Israel. And here we see four men, four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John, out of whom the Lord Jesus later constituted the three core apostles, Peter, James, and John. Brothers and sisters, unknown to them in that day, their training days were over and their school days were done, in the acquisition of the experience the Lord wanted them to have in their earthly vocation, for they had come of age. They had gained an expertise, a knowledge, an ability in that fishing profession, and God knew that He could now use them on a spiritual plane, for the body of the kingdom of God, which is the church. And at the right moment, Jesus walked to the waterside, and he called Peter and Andrew his brother, and moving further, he also called James and John, saying: **“Come ye after me, and I WILL MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN.”** In other words, “Follow me,

and from now on, I will teach you how to catch men; I will make you fishers of men. You will no longer be fishing for fish. From today, you will be fishing for men.” Saints, the Lord was not speaking of fishing for just any kind of men, but strictly for the elect seeds of Almighty God. Period! We must now ask ourselves: Why did the Master call fishers? That is the point! Why exactly did he call fishermen and not shepherds? And to let you see just how much of fishermen they were to the core of their natural being, after Jesus passed away, they went straight back to that trade! In the Gospel of Saint John Chapter 21, at the sea of Tiberias, Peter looked at the other disciples, six of them, and said in verse 3: ***“... I go A FISHING. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.”*** Then the Master came to them after his resurrection, revealing himself to them again at the seaside, and he made

bread and fish. Brethren, these disciples were fishermen, and with the crucifixion of the Master, the Messiah, which left them shattered, Peter did not know what else to do, and so, he went back ***“a fishing”***, for that was all he knew to do, and what he loved to do! The rest jumped in with him, because they were all fishermen; and once a fisher, always a fisher; once a shepherd always a shepherd. A fisherman just cannot help himself! Even the smell of the water does something to him, for how he loves it! The serenity of the sea, when it is calm, and the smell of the ocean, all these things fill the nostrils of fishermen like scented perfume, and how they long for it; they long to get close to it: Because they are fishermen! Brothers and sisters, we have to ask ourselves: What exactly is there about this vocation, this profession, that the Master went to them in that day, and from the school of fishermen, he chose men to carry the light of the New Covenant

for the Jewish nation, Not only for the entire body of saints, but also for the entire body of ministry? That is precisely what we want to lay out in this message, *Why It Had To Be Fishers*. In the Gospel of Saint Luke, Chapter 5, from verse 1, the Bible says: ***“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, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 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. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 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. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great***

multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 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.” Wow, what a catch! Both ships began to sink from the exceedingly great catch of fish. Now pay attention to verses 8-11: ***“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 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. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”*** Brothers and sisters, from this passage of Scripture, certain vital attributes of a fisherman stands out. But let me first

ask, who is a fisherman? It is very easy to answer that, for it needs no interpretation, because everyone knows it. A fisherman is a person that catches fish. Simple! It is someone whose job it is to catch fish; they trade in catching fish. We all know that.

However, the real issue is: What does their job entail? What do fishermen do? That is what is material, for in answering this question, it helps us to see what the fishing trade demands! Saints, the first thing about fishermen that I want you to see is that like shepherds, they also toil very long and hard, and we just read it in Luke Chapter 5, when at the sea of Tiberias Jesus told Simon Peter in verses 4-5: ***“... Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, WE HAVE TOILED ALL THE NIGHT, and have taken nothing.”*** Other men were sleeping, snoring big time at this late hour, but these men were out at sea

looking for fish. And many times, brothers and sisters, having toiled all night, they come home with nothing, just as Peter told Jesus here. I said many times they come home with nothing, because it is not every day that a fisherman goes out that he catches something! Many times they come home, without anything in the net. They wash their nets, spread them out to dry, and then they go to sleep. They can have days that they catch nothing. And if you are only a business man, one who came into the trade thinking you can make fast and easy money, if you are not really a fisherman, the long and hard toil which many times yields no fruit, is enough to send you packing from that profession, and get you looking for another business. I am talking of businessmen fishers, and not of genuine fishermen, because there is a difference in the two classes of fishers. Businessmen do not have what it takes to be fishermen. Consequently, if things do not go well, they will simply ditch fishing for another trade. But for a man

who is a fisherman in his heart, it does not matter how many times he catches nothing, and how many nights he toils and comes home with nothing; he cannot help himself: he will still remain a fisherman! A lot of times, he may have nothing to show for all the efforts he puts into his profession, but he still continues to fish nonetheless! He still keeps fishing! Yet, it looks like he is not prospering; it looks like things are not going fine for him; it looks like he is just wasting his time and energy for nothing, continuing in that trade; but he still keeps fishing! Because there is something deep down in him that makes him love fishing, and as such, he just cannot help himself, for it is his life! How he just loves to fish, though it is a long and hard toil! The life of a fisherman, just like that of a shepherd, revolves around the fish. As a result of this, a fisherman lives very close to the waters. You do not see a fisherman living in the city, except it is by the water, because fishermen live close to water, because

fishing is their life! Brothers and sisters, they fish for most of the time, for fishing is the means of their livelihood. It is their life, and they guard that profession with all their hearts. The vocation is also very sacrificial, because he gives so much to the work, and many times catches nothing. However, there are days they have a good break, and how they long for such days, for their work requires long and hard labour. Consequently, if you are lazy, it is certain that you cannot give it the dedication it deserves, and as such, you cannot be a fisherman. Forget it! Because it is not an "Easy go easy" kind of trade! It is not! I am talking about old-time fishing; I am not talking about the technological age we are now living in, where everything is determined by technology. Fishing has also changed too. I am talking of the old time fishing, the original fishermen in the days of Jesus Christ. You could not be a fisherman in the good old days without

having the love of fish deep down in your heart. Brothers and sisters, the rigours and perils of the profession itself will scare you, for it takes a lot to be a fisherman! Therefore, in order to be a proficient fisherman, a good and successful fisherman, you have got to understand the nature of fish, because all fish are not the same. You have different fish. Are you listening to me? There is catfish; there is tilapia; there is salmon, cod, mackerel, herring, shark, etc. The list is endless, for all sorts of fish abound in the various rivers, seas, and oceans. Consequently, fishermen must understand the nature of fish and their various habitats, because all fish have their own waters in which they reside. For instance, you have salt water fish, and you also have fresh water fish. There is no point going in fresh water to fish, if all you are looking for is salt water fish, and vice versa, otherwise, you are only wasting your time. For some fish, you have to go to murky waters to get them, for that is their habitat. You do not see

them where the water is clean and clear. You must know the types of water, and the various fish that inhabits it, and you must be careful, because if you are fishing where the electric fish is, it may paralyse or even kill you. The mega voltage in the body of that fish is serious, because on impact, it can electrocute you with an electric shock of about 350 volts! That is why it is called the electric fish, for God put mega voltage in its system. So, if you do not know what resides in that water, you may even lose your life, particularly if you are stung by a stingray, or your boat capsizes in water that is full of pirana fish: They will skin your bones clean of every strand of flesh, all in a matter of minutes! You can imagine an ignorant fisherman whose net catches an electric fish, and he simply grabs it with his bare hands like he would grab other fish. You know he will receive the greatest shock of his life, and this is for real! It is as simple as that. Brothers and sisters, the fact remains that a fisherman

must understand the different fishes there are, and the different waters there are, where those fishes reside; and he must also understand the ways of the fish, or he will catch nothing. I mean that he must understand the characteristics of the particular fish he is interested in fishing, or it will be a share waste of time. For he must know what it feeds on, how it eats, and when it eats, and in what water it resides, for all this will enable him to know precisely how to fish for it, when, where, how, and to determine what bait he needs to catch this fish. The right bait must be used, because if you use the wrong bait, you are also wasting your time. You must know what kind of bait to use for the particular fish you are interested in. Saints, these are some of the intricacies of the fishing profession. And in fishing, you could be in the sun for hours. Imagine spending three hours under the heat of the sun, with nothing to cover you. That is why many times, when fishermen go

out to fish, they end up only coming back sunburnt! Instead of coming back home with fish, they come back home with sunburn. This shows, brothers and sisters, that fishing tries your patience, and if you are not patient; if you are an impatient man, you cannot be a fisherman, because fish is not there just for you to catch at will, like they are waiting for you! That is a fact! Fishing will try your patience. Therefore, if you are not ready to give it the patience, and the diligence, and the persistence, and the consistency it takes, in the adversities fishermen face in fishing, you will not be a fisherman, for it c e r t a i n l y t a k e s perseverance, diligence in adversity, to be a successful fisherman. So, whether you are using a fishing rod, or you are using a fishing net, I do not care what you use to fish, it takes patience, or you will not be a fisherman, not a successful one, for they are hard to catch. Consequently, a fisherman has to understand certain fundamental principles of the fishing industry. They must understand the signs

of the tides, for instance, because the tides have to do with fishing. Any fisherman that does not understand that the tides have a play in fishing, is a very poor fisherman. He is probably just doing it as a hobby, and not that he is a true fisherman: Because the law of tides governs the waters, and hence the fishing vocation!

Brother Johnson and I went to the waterside in the Ilaje area of Lagos, to see some fishermen. We saw this young man, and I asked him, *"When do you go fishing?"* He said, *"Anytime. There is no special time."* By the time he opened up his mouth to tell me all his ignorance, I said, *"Brother Johnson, let us go. This is not a fisherman, but a chance fisherman, more like a gambler."* Even I, who cannot fish, and who knows next to nothing about fishing, still knows better than the foolishness he was telling us. Because I know you cannot fish just anytime you like! That is like a child talking! Saints, some of the so-called

fishermen in Ilaje go fishing anytime they like, because they do not understand anything about fishing! No wonder the labour they are expending, is an endless and fruitless one, year in and year out, merely wasting their years in an industry that they have no business being engaged in, for they have no clue to anything! Those are not true fishermen! True fishermen know that the best time to fish is when the fish are feeding, and this is usually at DAWN (at the break of the day, or cockcrow), and at DUSK (twilight, which is immediately after sunset). Moreover, the tides have everything to do with fishing! Brothers and sisters, in actuality, there are four periods in a day which good fishermen watch, for the fish are most active at these times: The sunrise and the sunset; the moonrise and the moonset, the four daily watches or periods which each gives about a ninety minutes window for fishing: Forty five minutes just before sunrise, and

forty five minutes after sunrise; forty five minutes before sunset, and forty five minutes after sunset; forty five minutes before moonrise, and forty five minutes after moonrise; and forty five minutes before moonset, and forty five minutes after moonset. I will tell you exactly why. It is because the sun and the moon exert a great gravitational pull over the earth, and hence, they exert a great gravitational pull over the waters, and this affects the tides, and the tides in turn, is what brings in the live food which fish eat! Consequently, when the tides come in, that is the best time to fish, so fishermen can catch a lot of fish; because that is when the fish are feeding. This therefore gives fishermen a window: Sunrise and sunset, and more preferably, for it is more favourable, they also have the moonrise and moonset window. This undoubtedly means, that proficient and knowledgeable fishermen, position themselves in the water just prior to these times, waiting for that fishing window, as long as

there is fish in that water. However, the best time of all, for bumper fishing, for the best catch ever, is when it is the new moon or the full moon, and may I say that all proficient and experienced fishermen look forward with great eagerness to this period, for fishing. This is so, because the moon, compared to the sun, exercises a greater or a stronger gravitational pull and control over the waters, and hence over the tides, because of its close proximity to the earth, compared with the sun, which is much farther away. So, you can now imagine the extent of the pull, when we have a new or a full moon. Consequently, the new moon or the full moon exerts the greatest gravitational pull over the waters, than any other time, simply because this is when the moon is at its greatest strength, being full! Moreover, I want to remind you that the control of the waters, and hence the tides, is invested in the moon by God, which is why the moon exerts a greater

control over the waters than the sun. In Genesis Chapter 1, verses 14-18, it is written: ***“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be FOR SIGNS, and FOR SEASONS, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights”,*** (the sun and the moon); ***“the greater light”,*** (which is the sun), ***“to rule the day, and the lesser light, (which is the moon),”*** ***“TO RULE THE NIGHT: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.”*** Now pay close attention to this, for it opens up precisely the authority which God has invested in the moon in Genesis. In Job Chapter 38, verses 8-11, God asked Job: ***“Or who shut***

up THE SEA with doors, when it brake forth", (or when it was made or created), **"as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made THE CLOUD"** (OF HEAVEN) **"the garment thereof, and THICK DARKNESS"** (of the night), **"A SWADDLINGBAND FOR IT, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?"** I now ask: Which celestial power rules the night? It is the moon, for it appears only in the night! And where does the moon reside? It is in the cloud! What does this mean, Brother Amos? What is God saying in essence? It simply means that God made the **"thick darkness"** OF THE NIGHT to be the **"swaddlingband"** of the **"SEA"** or of the OCEAN. A **"swaddlingBAND"** or swaddling WRAP, is like a baby's restraining cloth! In other words, God made the night to hold the restraining cloth of the control over the sea, because the moon, (which is housed by the

night or by darkness), is the light God authorised to rule the night! Catch it! Furthermore, the moon is placed or located in the clouds of heaven, and it rules the darkness of the night, which is precisely why the Lord said to Job: **"... I made the cloud the garment THEREOF, and thick darkness A SWADDLINGBAND FOR IT"**, all pointing to, and speaking of the moon, the lesser light that rules the night, and the light which exercises the greatest gravitational control over the seas! It is thus saith the Lord in His Word, as recorded in Job Chapter 38, verse 9! We all know that a **"garment"** is a fitted cloth that covers a man. Here, the Lord is saying categorically that the cloud, like a garment, is what covers or encloses the sea. This declaration is made, strictly on account of the authority or the control which the night exerts over the sea, by virtue of the power of the moon which resides in the cloud at night! And whatever the bigness of the sea or ocean, it comes literally

under the cover of the cloud of the night, and hence, under the authority of the moon! Period! Hence it is written, even as God declared: **"I made... thick darkness A SWADDLINGBAND FOR IT"**, speaking strictly of the night. In simple terms, God tied the control of the sea to the night, thereby making it totally subject to the rulership of the moon, the celestial light which rules the night! Mystery solved by the Spirit of God! Praise God! I say that because I have always known that the moon exercises control over the sea, which is why it controls the tide; but I just could not prove it scripturally, until now, when the Lord opened it up for me. God be praised for His love and mercy, for now, I can see it clearly through the eye of the Scriptures, and to God be the glory! Amen! However, the Lord concludes in verses 10-11: **"And brake up for it my decreed place"**, (meaning that God placed the sea in its precise divine location on earth), **"and set bars and**

doors” (to contain and control it), **“And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?”** (This is by the authority which God invested in the moon over the sea). Brothers and sisters, this is precisely why the moon exerts or exercises the greatest control over the waters, monitoring and determining or controlling the tides. Full stop! But what is a tide? What are tides? Saints, in simple terms, the constant rise and fall of ocean waters are called tides. Along the beach, the water rises up over the shore and falls back again, giving us tides. We have high tides, and we also have low tides. When the water rises to its highest level, covering much of the shore, that is what gives us a high tide. But when it falls to its lowest level, then that is what gives us a low tide. Let me also point out that when the moon exerts its gravitational pull, the tidal force is strongest on the side of the earth facing the moon, and is weakest on the side of the earth which faces the opposite

direction. When the tidal force is set in motion, by the gravitational pull of the moon, the earth bulges on two sides at the same time: one side towards the moon, and the other side away from the moon, and this affects the ocean waters. The earth side nearer the moon bulges more towards the moon, as it is pulled towards it, giving us the *high high tide* in that region. The other side, which is the opposite side of the earth, the side farthest away from the moon, also has a bulge; but the bulge is away from the moon, and as such, it gives us the low high tide on that other side, because it is away from the moon. So, when we have the *high high tide*, that is, when the side of the earth positioned or facing the moon, experiences the *high high tide*, the waters sweep over the shore, for it rises and covers the land, as the tidal force of the moon is exerted, pulling the ocean towards it. It creates a feeding frenzy of fish at that hour, and fishermen positioned in the sea are poised to catch a lot of fish

at this point in time. But as I stated earlier, above all periods, fishermen watch two particular events in a month for maximum and unusual fishing: The new moon and the full moon. Twice every month, the earth in its rotation comes to the new moon and the full moon, because twice each month, the moon in its rotation lines up with the earth and the sun, for they are all in alignment. When the moon comes between the sun and the earth, the moon appears dark, because it is blocking the rays of the sun, being in the shadow of the sun, and this gives us the new moon. On the other hand, however, when the earth is between the sun and the moon, the moon reflects the sunlight, giving us the full moon. This rotational alignment happens twice every month, and there is not a better time to catch fish than when it is a new moon or a full moon.

Moreover, apart from the effect of the tides caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and moon,

fishermen also know that the weather also plays an important role in the fishing industry, and hence, they watch it, particularly severe weather, because it affects how fish feed. For instance, if a cold spell is coming, the fish will swim deep down into the water, and remain inactive. But if a storm is coming, or when it has just passed, this gives fishermen a good fishing door, for the fish will feed very actively. All these things affect the fishing trade, and any fisherman who does not understand these things, cannot be an effective and successful fisher, but he is a poor one, because he is absolutely ignorant of vital factors affecting fishing! Consequently, brothers and sisters, these are realities of the fishing trade which true fishermen understand, and they function in their trade with total regard for these principles. Church, good fishermen must understand and can read the waves and the tides. They know when the tides go and come in, for they understand and can interpret the tides, and have

used this knowledge in fishing for many centuries of time, ever before the modern day meteorologists came on the scene. And because they understand the signs of the tides, they know when to get out of the waters, as it can get very tempestuous, and their lives will be in mortal danger, because of what may follow. This knowledge comes from experience which seasoned fishermen gain through time, in the fishing profession. On the other hand, ignorant and inexperienced fishermen will die in the process! Brothers and sisters, the life of a fisherman is fraught with dangers; it is attended with dangers, for fishing is a very hazardous business. Therefore, they must understand the weather, and the signs of the tides; they must understand the law of the waves. And that is why they study the weather and the waves. A real fisherman knows about the waves, because his life depends on the knowledge of the

wave. I am not talking of a man standing on a river bank with a fishing rod in his hand. That is just a man with a hobby! I am talking of real fishermen out there in the open sea! If the waves come in too fast, and rough, he may lose his life! And many fishermen have lost their lives, and still continue to lose their lives even as we speak, for it is a harsh reality of their vocation! It is fraught with dangers! Sometimes, it is their boat that capsizes, way out in the sea, and they all drown and perish, with their bodies eaten up by sharks! That is a fact, and hence, it is not an easy trade, definitely not for fearful and lazy people! Saints, true fishermen understand the signs of the weather, and of the sea. And is that not true of the ministry of the bride? Of course it is! Hence in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 16, Jesus laced it into a group of men who were supposed to be spiritual fishermen, but who, unfortunately, were as ignorant as ignorant

can be, and as blind as bats, for they could see nothing! In verses 1-3, it is written: ***“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”*** The Pharisees could discern the weather, but they could not discern the signs of the times. So, a true fisherman must be able to read the signs of the weather, and know when to go in, and when not to go in, because his life depends on this knowledge. The life of a fisherman is indeed a hazardous one, for he may ***“go a fishing”*** and never return, and this happens every blessed day, even with all the technology they have, particularly those who fish for lobsters, prawns, crabs, and shrimps, way out

in the deep and most turbulent sea, where these creatures can be gotten. Watch the National Geographic channel on this, and you will see just how extremely dangerous the job of catching lobsters, prawns, and shrimps are! They must know when to call a halt to a fishing expedition, or they will pay a mortal price! We have to lay out these things, in order to show precisely ***WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS***, this time around. There is no other way to appreciate why it had to be fishers, but to lay out the facts relating to the fishing industry for our appreciation, just as we did with ***WHY IT HAD TO BE SHEPHERDS***. As I was saying earlier, true proficient fishermen, accomplished fishermen, must understand the signs of the tides and of the weather. And that is also very true in its application on a spiritual level, because a true spiritual fisherman must likewise understand, ***“the SIGNS of the TIMES”***, just as Jesus indicated in his

rebuke to the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were blind guides, terrible ***“fishers of MEN”***! Saints, it is absolutely necessary, for it is a fact, a most crucial and important fact, that true fishers of men ***MUST*** understand ***“the signs of the times”*** as well; otherwise, they are nothing but blind guides, miserable fishers of men, ignorant men who are intruding into spiritual endeavours of which they ***h a v e n o c l u e !*** Consequently, they must know what the day is saying; they must know what the Spirit of the Lord demands in that day; they must know the spirit of the enemy that is ruling that day, and the knowledge of what it will take to combat it! Anything less, makes a useless fisher of men! I ***r e p e a t***, for it is fundamental for the ministry: A “fisherman” that is worth his salt, must know what the day is saying; he must be able to see the conditions prevailing in his hour of time, and also know what the Spirit of God requires

in that hour. In other words, he must know the spirit of the day, which is the spirit of the antichrist, or the spirit of disobedience ruling the lives of men, creating the conditions existing on earth, and what precisely can combat the spirit of the enemy that is ruling the day. It devolves on possessing the requisite revelation, a divine revelation, which gives true fishers of men a perfect understanding of the times and its signs, and this is none other than the standard of the **“PRESENT TRUTH”** of Jesus Christ. Anything else, and anything less, only makes a fisherman vulnerable to the adverse waves of the day. Therefore, it is imperative that fishermen understand the signs of the tides, and the signs of the weather. That is a true fisherman! Moreover, he must know everything about his vocation, or he will be a very poor fisherman. For instance, if a man is fishing with a rod or a fishing line, he must not only know the kind of bait to use, and the type of fish that resides in that water, he must also

know how to let down the rope, and not make it too tight. He gives the rope a little ease on the other end of the fishing line, for easy reeling in of the fish that is caught by his hook. This is so, because if the rope or line is too tight, and the fish takes the bait and it is hooked, the line will break, for it will snap: Because of the weight and the strain that is put upon the line, when it is being pulled in! So, they do not make the line too tight. This speaks of liberty within the range of truth. It perfectly types the liberty of the fish of God within the range of truth. You do not make the rein or line too tight. You have to give it some ease, some free rein, because there is liberty within the range of truth. But saints, these principles are things you do not learn overnight. With the passage of time, and with patience and dogged perseverance, a fisherman gains experience and proficiency in the fishing vocation, which is a hard industry. This is the real training; the real schooling of fishermen, for they are

schooled in the field of experience and patient observation, by learning through experienced fishers, who pass on the knowledge of the trade.

May I also say this morning, that like shepherds, fishermen are also simple people, living simple lives, with simple hearts. They help one another, for they know that in their profession, they are one, and hence, they are not selfish or self-seeking. They are like one big community in partnership with one another, for when the occasion demands, they will exercise communal efforts! This is so, because there is no complexity about them, for they are simple, neighbourly people. That is what we see demonstrated in Luke Chapter 5, as recorded in verses 4-7: **“Now when he”** (Jesus Christ) **“had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 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. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 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.

Saints, fishermen live by the waters, close to their trade, and they are people with simple hearts; simple ways, for they are not looking for much, but how they love their trade! I call it humble meekness, for they are a humble and meek people, because they are fishermen; not educated puffed up people. Brothers and sisters, from this particular profession, the profession of fishermen, the Master went to look for his men, the men that would become the beginning NUCLEUS, or the starting nucleus of the apostolic fold of ministry, men who will make up the head of the

New Testament Fivefold ministry. Halleluiah! Saints, I will remind you one more time, that the three core apostles of Jesus Christ, the three inner circle apostles, so-to-say, were all fishermen, every last one of them: Peter, James, and John. The third and last of the inner caucus apostles, who is Saint John, was not only the ***“disciple whom Jesus loved”***, being the closest to Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, he was also the only one who received a Spirit or an Anointing, A PROPHETIC ANOINTING, that would be reserved all through time, for a great end time role, being one of the three greatest Anointings: Moses, Elijah, and John. And in that day, as the Lord began to pick the men who would form the starting nucleus of the apostolic ministry, for the entire nation of Israel, he went by the leadership of the Spirit of God the Father, directly to fishermen by the sea of Galilee, who were busy in their vocation, and he began to call them to follow him. Unknown to

them as well, their training days were also over, and their school days were all done, and the Lord knew that they had acquired enough experience and knowledge of the fishing vocation that was necessary for the Master's purpose, and he called out to them: ***“FOLLOW ME, and I will make you FISHERS OF MEN.”*** Mark Chapter 1, verses 14-20 records: ***“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I WILL MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. And when he had gone a little***

further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him."

Brothers and sisters, we can see thus far, that there is a great similarity in the patience, perseverance, dedication, sacrifice, and knowledge which fishermen must have, in comparison with shepherds, whose vocation also demands exactly the same level of commitment. Both vocations also have their dangers, which can be life threatening, and many fishermen have lost their lives in the line of duty, and still do, just like shepherds. However, before we move any further, church, I want to explain something to you, for we must ask: Why then did the Lord change from calling shepherds into the ministry, to calling fishers? We must ask this, particularly since we have seen that the two

professions require more or less the same qualities? Why then did the Lord change to using fishermen? That is precisely what I now want to lay out by the grace of God, and the reason is concealed in the main difference existing between the two professions, for there is a fundamental difference between shepherds and fishermen. Pay close attention. I repeat: There is a marked difference between shepherds and fishers. What is that difference? The difference is this: A shepherd owns the sheep, and it is in his possession, whether by inheritance, or by purchase, or even as a gift; the fact remains that a shepherd owns the flock. Secondly, sheep are used to being touched by humans, for they dwell amongst humanity, and hence, are used to the shepherds. On the other hand, however, brothers and sisters, when we talk of fish, creatures who do not dwell among men on land, you first have to catch a fish! I said you have to

catch a fish first! A fisherman first has to catch the fish before it is his! In natural reality, when fish see human beings, they see you as a danger, and they disappear into the water. The fish is not going to swim to you, or even try to hang around you like sheep may. They will simply dart away, because they see man as the intruders in their world, and as a source of great danger, and that is true! Brothers and sisters, I am making a very serious point, although I speak in the natural. However, the truth remains that whereas the sheep are already there for a shepherd to work upon, on the other hand, the fish are not there already, for the fisherman to have and to hold. Consequently, the fisherman must look for them, and he is very uncertain whether he will get them that day or the next day. I repeat: Whereas the sheep are used to human beings and shepherds, fish are not, and hence, fish swim away from human presence. When they see

the boat of men appearing, they dart away. The material question now is: How do we relate this to the children of God? Well, it is this, and please pay attention, so you get it: Every Jew, by the virtue of the law of circumcision which God gave to Abraham, is a believer at birth. Every Jew, by the virtue of the law of circumcision which takes place on the eighth day, makes him a believer at birth. So they are a ready people for the shepherds to minister unto, for the children of Israel, who are God's children, are already on the ground, and are used to the ministry of shepherds, right from their beginning. In distinction to this, the fish of God, who are the elect seeds of God in the whole wide world, are not there as a ready people for spiritual fishermen to work upon. They must first be fished out! They must first be caught, for they are unknown to men, except to God! Consequently, God requires the expertise of fishers, for the elect children of God in the universe, the Gentile world, must be sought out in the ocean of

the world! Hence, the reason the Gospel message is preached to ***"whosoever"*** believes, even as it is written in John Chapter 3, verse 16: ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** The only people that will believe in him are God's predestined children. But unfortunately, No man has the list of the names of God's fish, God's elect children in the world, and hence, the message has to be to ***"WHOSOEVER believeth"!***

Saints, we are saying in true essence, that the fish of God, unless they are caught by the Gospel net, cannot relate to the ministry of God's servants. In other words: They cannot relate to divine fishermen, unless and until they are caught in the net. And that is a fact, a true reality of life! Are you with me? It is only when they are caught that they can relate to the fishermen,

otherwise, they have no relationship or even liking for preachers of the Gospel, whilst they are still living for the flesh! When they see a preacher coming, they disappear from his presence, and that is the truth! It takes quite an effort to catch them! That is precisely why fishers of men must also be very patient and relentless; persevering in whatever adversity they face in the line of their fishing duty! Consequently, brothers and sisters, we must now see that there is a fundamental difference between the fish and the sheep, and hence, between the work of a shepherd and that of a fisher. For whilst the sheep were on the ground already for the shepherds to work upon, back there under the Old Testament, a ready body of believers from birth, people who were used to shepherds coming everyday to minister to them from birth, it was not so with us Gentiles, who, were strangers to God's Covenant, being a people

without God! Hence it is written in the Book of Ephesians Chapter 2, verses 11-13: ***“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, and STRANGERS from the Covenants of promise, HAVING NO HOPE, and WITHOUT GOD in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”***

Apostle Paul laid out this truth in that passage, a thought which continues right to the end of that Chapter, in verse 22. We Gentiles were strangers and foreigners to the commonwealth of Israel, having no hope, and without God in the world. So, the Lord had to search us out in the ocean of the world, and herein lays the need for fishers; not shepherds, but fishers, men who will come

with a bait, because the fish of God are not the ready subjects of any fisherman! So, he comes with a bait with which to catch the fish. And what is the bait? It is the live food attached to the hook, which is at the end of the line, and which is let down into the waters of humanity, to catch the fish of God. Consequently, brothers and sisters, it is essential and most compulsory that the bait is the right bait. Are you listening to me, church? What kind of bait? It depends on the fish you want to fish. But remember that we are speaking of God's fish, for I am trying to show you ***WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS***. Brothers and sisters, there is a bait, one exclusive, effective, and true bait, for the true fish of God. I repeat: There is only one kind of bait that works for the fish of God, even though there is much bait in the world. However, only one bait, a special kind of bait, an invaluable kind of bait, a bait most precious, being most costly, most invaluable, bait that a billion dollars cannot buy, that can catch

the elect seeds of God. The name of the bait is ***Divine Revelation of the Scriptures***. Halleluiah! The bait is called divine revelation of the Word. Nothing else can catch the golden fish of God! Because the only thing the fish of God recognises, and the only thing they go for, the only thing they want, and the only thing they are looking for in the ocean of the world, is the eternal sustenance of their lives, the meat of life, the revelation of life, which is the Fresh ***“Carcase”*** of the living Word of God. If there is a perfect revelation of life at the end of your line, attached to your hook, and you throw your line, there is only one kind of fish that will come for it, for that special kind of bait attracts only one breed or class of fish. I feel religious! The other fish will simply swim away at the projection of that bait, for it means absolutely nothing to them! They despise the bait of life! But this special fish of God, he says: ***“That thing looks good! My! I have not seen such meat since I have***

been spawning in these waters. It looks different, and sounds different, and the smell of it is also something else! Let me investigate. I must, for who knows, I may have the feast of my life today!" Halleluiah! I say that because there is power in truth, raw divine stimulating power! How it enthuses the soul of God's true eagles! How most precious and invaluable it is! Hence, in the Book of Revelation Chapter 6, verses 5-6, it is written: **"And when he"** (Jesus Christ) **"had opened the Third Seal"** (in heaven), **"I heard the Third Beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him"**, (who is the spirit of the Anti-Christ), **"had a pair of balances"** (or scale) **"in his hand,** (weighing out surplus dead and toxic meals to the people). **"And I heard a voice"** (of God) **"in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny"**: (meaning that the spirit of the Anti-Christ can sell whatever he likes, for whatever price he

likes, however dead and toxic the meal may be; BUT, and this is the warning): **"and see thou HURT NOT THE OIL AND THE WINE."** In other words: You cannot touch the stimulation of the divine revelation of the pure Word of God, for any reason or purpose whatsoever! Stay away from the pure revelation of life, for it is not yours to touch or use in any way! Consequently, brothers and sisters, his fish, Satan's fish, also all stay away from revealed faith, for they hate it! How they loathe it! On the other hand, the divine revelation of the Word of God is the drawing cord for seeds. It is the attraction on the mountain for all elect seeds of God. And as such, it is the proof of the origin of the fish, the proof that the fish is from God, and that it is going back to God. Therefore, when the fisherman throws a line, a line of the Word of God, and that golden nugget, that **"CARCASE"** BAIT sinks in the water of the world, like **THE PRESENT DAY IDENTITY OF THE SERPENT; THE**

THREEFOLD MYSTERY OF THE SEVENTH SEAL; THE MAN THAT WAS CAUGHT UP; or THEY CAME TO PRESENT THEMSELVES, church, the fish will say: **"Take me! I am all yours! Let me die with this meat in my mouth if I have to: Because I know I will rise with it in the rapture, for it is the meat of life!"** Oh my! Glory be to God in the highest! Amen! Who knows the fish of God? Only God knows His fish, and only God knows where they are, and also when and how exactly to get them! That is why fishermen, spiritual fishermen, go with the Gospel net, for it is powered by revelation, divine revelation. May I also say, that This Net, this Gospel Net, applies not only to the Gentiles, it also applies to the Jewish saints also, under the New Covenant, because only God knows those who make up a part of the royal seeds of Abraham within the Jewish race! Exactly! For as it is written: **NOT ALL ISRAEL ARE OF ISRAEL!** In Romans Chapter 9, verses 1-8,

Apostle Paul declared: ***“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the Covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. Not as though the Word of God hath taken none effect.”*** (Now listen to this): ***“FOR THEY ARE NOT ALL ISRAEL, WHICH ARE OF ISRAEL: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but THE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE ARE COUNTED***

FOR THE SEED.” This lets us see that God is looking for spiritual Jews today, as it is written in Romans Chapter 2, verses 28-29: ***“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”*** That is precisely why, in Philippians Chapter 3, verse 3, Saint Paul declared: ***“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”*** Hence the need for fishers, beginning from the days of Jesus Christ, who is the Testator of the New Covenant, and which was why, he chose fishermen to fish for the royal seeds of Abraham, even within the Jewish nation! This is absolutely so, because it is no longer about the Old Testament, wherein the Lord was dealing only with

natural Israel, and where every Jew was a believer at birth, by virtue of the law of circumcision, which was a carnal one, being only in the flesh; but it is now about the New Covenant, which strictly requires a spiritual circumcision, the circumcision of the heart, which comes strictly by faith! Now, it is about the New Testament, where God is dealing strictly with spiritual Israel, who are the royal seeds of Abraham, and who make up the universal bride church, the nation of the bride, an elect people made up of Jews and Gentiles, foreknown only to God, and beloved of God the Father.

Look at the beautiful exposition of Apostle Paul recorded in Galatians Chapter 3. But for brevity, we will take verses 5-29, where the Lord asks: ***“He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth He it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God,***

and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.** And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus

Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his SEED were the promises made", (as recorded in Genesis Chapter 17, verse 19). "He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of ONE, And to THY SEED, WHICH IS CHRIST. And this I say, that the Covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ", (to Abraham), "the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the

hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God BY FAITH in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is

neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, THEN ARE YE ABRAHAM'S SEED, and heirs according to the promise"; YE ARE THE ROYAL SEEDS OF ABRAHAM, begotten through Jesus Christ our Lord! Halleluiah! Amen! Brothers and sisters, under the New Testament, the just shall live by faith, for salvation is strictly by faith. And as such, FAITH in the truths of Jesus Christ is THE requirement for all elect seeds of God, who make the royal lineage, both Jews and Gentiles. Consequently, under the New Dispensation, the work did not require the expertise of shepherds in that day, but strictly of fishers, men who were learned and experienced in using fish bait, which now translates to spiritual bait, necessary to catch God's predestinated bride seeds, beginning first with the Jewish nation. The elect seeds of God in that day among the Jewish race also had to be fished out, with the bait of the Gospel, just like the Gentiles, for the

revelation of the Word of God is the drawing cord for all God's seeds, and it is also the binding cord, for it is what binds us all together. That was what happened on the day of Pentecost, when three thousand souls were caught in the Gospel net, because they saw something, and they heard something, and it pricked their hearts, anchoring deep down in their souls, making absolute and perfect sense! The Bible says that they were pricked in their hearts, and they cried out to Peter: *"What must we do to be saved?"* And he told them: *"Repent, and be baptised in the nameS of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?"* No, he did not say any such thing! If you drop that dead bait, God's fish will dart away from you, for they hate such a stinking lure! They are repulsed by all erroneous projections: for we baptise in water by immersion, full immersion, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the name by which all the families in heaven and earth are named, and the name by

which we are saved, for it is by that name that we are forgiven! The name of God for redemption is Jesus, which simply means Jehovah-Saviour, that God is my Saviour. Consequently, when you receive the name of the Lord Jesus in water baptism, it is not only the name of the Son of God who was born by Mary that you receive, it is also God's redemptive name, for Jesus is a compound name. When God (who is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost), entered into Jesus after his baptism at Jordan River; when God stepped into him in the fullness of all His divine attributes, making him become ***"The Christ"***, from that day onwards, if you called Jesus, it was not just the Son you were calling; you were also calling the Father, for it is also the redemptive name of God. And from those two sockets, Elohim would look at you; and in the shoe leather which Jesus wore, Elohim walked on the earth. I say, when you called Jesus, Elohim turned. Halleluiah!

Because ***“the NAME”*** (singular), ***“of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”***, is JESUS, perfectly harmonising the commandment Jesus gave in Matthew Chapter 28, verse 19, with the revelation which the apostles bore in Acts Chapter 2, verse 38! Brothers and sisters, the Gospel Net is what God has sent to catch the fish of God, because the fish of God are not just any kind of fish; they are a special brand of fish, and a peculiar breed of fish. Look at the descriptive language Apostle Peter used to describe the bride of Christ, the royal seeds of Abraham, in 1 Peter Chapter 2, verses 9-10: ***“But ye are a chosen”*** (elected) ***“generation, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, an holy nation, A PECULIAR PEOPLE; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now THE PEOPLE OF GOD: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*** However, the fact is that the list of God's royal

seeds, Jews and Gentiles, is not given to any man, therefore they have to be fished for, and it takes the Gospel Net or the Gospel Bait to get them, depending on the fishing method or the fishing instrument. It is a BAIT, if a fisherman is using a fishing rod, and it is a NET, if the method of fishing is by a dragnet. But whatever the method, the truth remains that it takes the Gospel Net or the Gospel Bait to catch the true fish of God. Period! As such, I do not care the fishing means, whether it is by a Net or a Line, (which is a Rod), the truth remains the same: No Gospel Net, no fishing! And no Gospel Bait, no fishing either, for the attraction for all true seeds of God is the revealed Word of the Lord! Full stop! In other words, if it is a rod, it has to be the Gospel Rod, with a Gospel Bait. If it is a Net, it has to be the Gospel Net, because as I said, the attraction, the bait, is the revealed Word of God. That is the only thing that can catch the fish of God, and only the fish of God can respond to truth. Brothers and sisters, we

are now beginning to understand why it had to be fishers. We are beginning to see why it had to be fishers. Having laid this truth out, church, I want us also to consider the application of the duties and experiences of true fishermen, because when it comes to the fishing vocation or work, apart from the regular everyday fishing they engage in, there are certain fundamental responsibilities fishermen also bear, and we need to consider these as well, for they engage actively in other duties which relate inherently to their vocation as ***“fishers OF MEN.”*** Come with me to the Scriptures of Truth.

In the Gospel of Saint Matthew Chapter 13, verses 47-48, it is written: ***“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto A NET, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, AND GATHERED THE GOOD INTO VESSELS, BUT CAST THE BAD***

AWAY.” Brothers and sisters, this Bible passage, apart from the act of fishing it gives us, also gives us the sorting out process which all fishermen engage in, right after a fishing expedition, when they have a catch. The first thing they have to do, which is a vital part of their job, is to sort out their catch. This is because the fishermen are looking for particular fish. However, their net also catches a lot of other fishes which they may not be interested in, and fingerlings as well, which are small fishes, baby fishes, which they throw back in the sea, to allow them to mature for harvesting at a much later date. But also, twigs, dead wood, broken bottles, which men have thrown into the sea, which are acts of pollution by men, are sometimes caught in the net. Brothers and sisters, a net is filled, not only with fishes, live fishes, but also with dead fishes, crabs, jelly fishes, shells of dead aquatic or sea creatures, and all sorts of things are caught in the net. As a result of this fact, fishermen have to sort out their catch, good

and bad. It is the last process of fishing, and we are coming back to pick up this thought much later. However, it is needful to let you see that fishermen also sort out their catch, separating the good from the bad; that is, they separate what they want from what they do not want, and they throw the bad away. It is an integral part and parcel of fishing, for fishing has its objectives: for they are not looking for just anything that moves in the sea! Hence they must sort out the catch, for it is an integral part and parcel of their job! But this is not all. Right after the call of Peter and Andrew, Jesus Christ moved a little further down the sea shore to call James and John, and here we see another aspect of a fisherman's work, for it was precisely what the two sons of Zebedee were doing, as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Mark Chapter 1, verse 19, which states: **“And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship MENDING THEIR**

NETS.” Saints, this lets us see another crucial aspect of their work. Brothers and sisters, we see here that fishermen not only **“go a fishing”**, which is not an easy work in itself, for it is most demanding and tiring; but they also engage in mending their nets, their main instrument for fishing. They have to do this, because the net sometimes gets torn, or sometimes, out of constant use, it gets worn out, and as such, it is needful for them to mend the net. Because if they do not mend the net, that gives a big gap for even a whale to pass through, if you see what I mean; for even a whale will pass through the net if it is torn. For when you throw a net that is torn into the waters, with the expectation of catching fish, the fish will say: *“Look at this foolish man. He thinks he can catch us. Let us show him he is a fool.”* They will enter the net, and they will simply and easily slip out from the other side, through the torn part of the net. The fish will say: *“Look at the foolish man.*

He wants to catch us with a torn net. He thinks we cannot see.” Fish can see! Natural fish can see! And if natural fish can see, how much more spiritual fish, who have anointed eyes to see! Come on! The implication of a torn net on a spiritual plane for fishers OF MEN is this: Knowing that the net represents the Gospel, if the net is torn, it simply means that your revelation is torn! How can you come to the elect bride seeds of God with a torn revelation; a torn net? You are coming to the bride of Christ with a torn revelation, and you expect them to follow you. You are the fool, not the fish! Your revelation is a torn revelation, and you want to catch the fish of God. You are wasting your time! Because they will say: *“Preach your message, and let us hear you. Cast your net for us to see what is in it for us.”* And when they see that your revelation is torn, for it is erroneous, they will say to themselves: *“Do not mind the man. He is just a clown. He thinks he can catch us. We went to his meeting and looked through his net; there was no*

message in his mouth, for he is as empty as air, leaving a big gaping hole in his net, and he expects to catch us with such a useless net. Leave him alone; he is only making noise. Let us pass through, for here we have no abiding place, no true anchor.” Brothers and sisters, let me say it this way: It is absolutely useless for any fisher trying to catch any elect bride seed of God in this last move, with a torn net. Forget it! It cannot be done, for it is utterly **“impossicant”**: Meaning that it is utterly impossible and cannot be! Remember, the Gospel is the Net. Consequently, without a perfect Gospel (Net); without a perfect revelation of the Scriptures, you can catch anything in the sea, Except God's fish, and God has His fish in the sea of the world! That is why He employs **“fishers OF MEN”**, fishers of His elect children, and your torn revelation will not work! That is why every true fisherman knows that he must take time, after fishing, to mend his net, for his work is not done with

the fishing expedition. It is not! Fishing is crucial, because by it they catch the fish. However, what is the use of fishing, if it will only be a sheer waste of time, and a vexation of the spirit, because their net has busted wide open, leaving a gaping hole? As such, fishers have a very **i m p o r t a n t** and indispensable obligation they owe themselves, if they are to be successful fishermen; if they are to be prosperous fishermen, and that is to mend their nets! They must mend their nets, or they cannot catch fish, and that makes **m e n d i n g n e t s** a fundamental work which all good fishermen engage in. Consequently, after fishing, they sit down, and begin to look through all of the net, to see whether any part of it is torn. They take their time to do this, however eager and desperate they may be to catch fish. They exercise due diligence to consider every inch of the net, every part of it, to ensure that their net is full proof; that their net is wholesome truth, having no tear

whatsoever, and however little. A fool proof net is what is required of fishers OF MEN. But in order to ensure that there are no cracks in their nets, whether they are cracks that they are not even aware exists in their nets, they take time to go over their nets, carefully exploring every inch of them, to assure themselves of the perfect state of their nets. And when a man is carrying a perfect Gospel, tell me how he will not catch the fishes of God. And if they discover any tear or loop hole, or any weakness in any area of their net, an area that can easily be bridged, then they have to take absolute time to mend that portion, for it requires due diligence to secure the wholesomeness of their net. That is what these fishermen are doing right here. (Brother Amos points to the chart). They are mending their nets. The two men standing over here at the extreme top left corner are examining their net, looking carefully and painstakingly all over it for any possible tear. The man who is sitting in front of them is mending the net, same as

the picture on his immediate right, where two men, who are sitting down, are also mending their net, having discovered it has been bridged, for it has a tear. This lets us see that their dedication to this profession is total, for they are diligently examining and mending their nets, to make them full proof. Saints, their commitment to the fishing trade is not in doubt. And as such, you cannot say to a good fisherman: *"You are wasting time! Leave that, for it is not important, and let us go fishing."* He will tell you: *"You are a fool to think that you can fish with a torn net! You show plainly that you do not know anything about fishing!"* Saints, mending nets is a fundamental and most crucial work of a fisherman, for he knows without any shadow of doubt that he cannot afford to waste his time going to catch this special class of fish with a torn net. It is a sheer waste of time. I call it a fishing exercise in futility. Brothers and sisters, we see in the passage we just read in Mark Chapter 1, verse 19,

that James and John were mending their nets, being an integral and a fundamental part and parcel of the fishing vocation. However, moving on in our exposition of this vocation, in the Gospel of Saint Luke Chapter 5, a passage we also read earlier, we see another crucial work which fishermen do, as recorded in verses 1-2: ***"And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the Word of God, he"*** (Jesus) ***"stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were WASHING THEIR NETS."*** Saints, these fishermen, having toiled all through the night, and were now just back to the shore, and still, their toil was not yet over! A people that had toiled all through the night fishing, you would expect them to go straight to bed. But no! Right after fishing, and for however long and hard it may have been, they still had to wash their nets!

Halleluiah! Why? It is because their nets must be cleaned and spread out to dry, in perfect readiness for the next expedition, when it will be folded in the typical required fashion for launching into the sea for fishing! They wash their nets, so that any bacteria that would have come onto the nets do not eat them up. Over time, and with constant use, particularly in the ocean, the effects of the salty water begins to wear down their nets, and their nets will begin to tear. So, they realise that they need to wash their nets out once they are used, and dried, in order to remove all bacteria, sea salt, weeds, and all such things that are entangled in their nets. Saints, they wash them, and spread them out to dry in the sun. They do not just bundle them down, as lazy people do, because if they do that, everything will be tangled up; their nets will be tangled up badly! Consequently, they wash them, spread them out to dry, and then they fold them neatly away, in full readiness for the next fishing expedition. The

bottom-line is that the nets must be kept clean, in order to ensure that they remain in a good state, as a good and effective instrument for fishing. This in turn typifies or shows that truth must be kept clean. The Gospel of Christ must be kept clean and pure, because **The efficacy of the Gospel is in ITS PURITY.** I repeat: The efficacy of the Gospel is in its absolute purity. In other words: The power of the Gospel to save, to deliver, to transform, and for perfect inspiration, lies completely in its absolute purity. Therefore, it is most imperative that **TRUTH MUST BE KEPT CLEAN; TRUTH MUST BE KEPT PURE;** the Gospel Net must be cleaned of all Gentile impurities. Brother Branham spoke about this crucial point, and we are still coming to consider it. But the truth remains that the Gospel (or Net), must be cleaned of all impurities, for it is in its absolute purity that it is to be returned to the Jews; because we received the Gospel Net from their hands in a perfectly pure state. Consequently, true

fishermen take time after fishing, to wash the net as well, for it is an indispensable and vital part of their work. It is an integral part of his job, for his job is not done by just fishing. The net must also be kept clean. So, he must wash the net. And truly, brothers and sisters, we must wash the net, to ensure that it is absolutely clean, absolutely pure, because when it is absolutely clean and pure, when it is perfect truth, then, you have the most potent, most powerful message ever, one which conquers all, for it does not fail! However, once the purity or cleanness is compromised, the message loses its transforming power. It becomes a message lacking in redeeming power, being a hybrid message. It is therefore a necessity that the net of a fisherman is kept clean and pure, thereby guaranteeing fishing prosperity. Brothers and sisters, Almighty God also looked at fishermen: He looked at their endless cycle of labour, their toil

and dedication; their diligence; their unquestionable commitment; their patience and perseverance; their sacrifice, and God decided to use seasoned fishers in fishing for His elect royal seeds, for the demands of the work are similar, for they are the same. These men toil all night whilst others are sleeping. And at dawn, when they come back from their fishing expedition, whether they catch fish or not, whether it was a successful expedition or not, they still have to wash their net, and spread it out to dry. And when it is dry, they will still sit down and carefully and painstakingly go through the entire net, making sure that it is absolutely secure; that it is full proof. But if it is not, then, they will also take the time, diligently, to mend the net perfectly, making it tear proof! My! What a dedication and sacrifice! But can the Lord require anything less from **“fishers of MEN”**? No, definitely not!

Now we want to consider one or two more crucial

responsibilities fishermen bear, before we move up a notch with our message, and one of them is that they have to disentangle their nets. Any fisherman using a tangled net is nothing but a fool! Because you cannot fish if your net is all tangled up! How are you going to lay it out in the water to trap the fish, over a wide area, when it is all tangled up? You cannot do it! Consequently, fishermen know that they have no choice but to disentangle their nets, once they get entangled. And even if they are not tangled up, they must still look carefully over their nets, to ensure that they are not tangled up anywhere, in order to guarantee effective and successful fishing, as long as you have fish in that water. That is an additional obligation they bear in their vocation as true fishers. Brothers and sisters, in the same vein, but now on a spiritual plane, which is a higher plane: Truth must be disentangled from Error; Light must be separated from Darkness; Right must be separated from Wrong; the Word of God must be

separated from the words of men, and from all carnal ideas and man-made programmes. In this Christian journey, many times, truth is tangled up, because it faces a lot of conflict. Many times, church, truth is tangled up, because it faces a lot of conflict, for it stands against the whole wide world. And on account of the great opposition truth faces, many times, the Word of God becomes entangled by the activities of men, and as such, it must be disentangled. In the presentation of truth, or in the heat of the conflict of faith, it is easy for truth to be tangled up by men. The tangling comes in various ways, but it is all in its presentation: Either by a genuine mistake, or through sheer ignorance of the truth, or by a deliberate muddling of the truth by phony fishermen, for fleshly reasons; and some, on the other hand, just want to mess up the expedition! Period! Therefore, they preach untruths, and present them in such crafty ways as the Gospel truth, so

much so that the net becomes entirely tangled up, and the children of God now find it difficult to determine truth from error, with regards to issues affected. This is net tangling! Please, make no mistake about it: A fisherman's net gets entangled many times. And the truth remains that once the net is tangled up, or once the truth is entangled, the net becomes useless, and must therefore be disentangled. There must be a halt to all fishing activities until the net is disentangled, and its effectiveness is restored. This is absolutely necessary, because when a net is tangled up, it becomes useless, for it can never be a meaningful or an effective instrument of fishing! Consequently, if you launch that net, it will not spread out, that it may be set in the precise order in the water as is necessary to catch any fish, for it is tangled, and hence, the expedition will be a share waste of time, energy, and resources! Think about it! The net, and indeed, any net, must be disentangled,

thus depicting the absolute necessity for true fishers OF MEN, good fishers OF MEN, faithful and seasoned ones, to separate truth from error, for a true revelation must be disentangled from falsehood. Furthermore, when there is confusion on any matter, because dual or contrary pictures have been drawn before God's children, thus creating confusion, which is entanglement of the truth, the confusion must be dispelled, and the net disentangled, by a true, faithful, and balanced presentation of the truth, that is, one which is strictly by divine revelation of the written Word of God. All dust will settle, and the confusion will be dispelled, and the net will become disentangled, establishing a perfect revelation, and a wholesome net. That is what the true ministry is supposed to do! Natural fishermen are diligent in ensuring that their nets remain untangled, and if entangled in any way, they take due diligence to disentangle them! And if men will take the time to do

all that for mere fish, natural fish, then, Almighty God does not need less dedication and commitment in the men He will use to fish for His children. Finally, brothers and sisters, the other crucial thing we also want to consider about fishermen, is depicted by the attitude of a fisherman in that day, Simon Peter, when he had a particular encounter with the Master, and that is the **simple faith** they bear and express to the revelation of the Lord. For just like the shepherds who watched their flocks by night, who, when the angel of the Lord came to announce to them the birth of the Messiah, they believed the Word of the Lord; they believed the Word of the Messiah! In the Gospel of Luke Chapter 5, verse 5, but starting from verse 1, the Bible records: ***“And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him”*** (Jesus Christ) ***“to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the***

fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 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. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 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. What a statement of simple faith this simple fisherman expressed in that day, just like the shepherds! They had just come back from fishing, an all night expedition, which unfortunately, was most unsuccessful, for they caught nothing, in spite of their endless labour and toil, all through the night, and now they were washing their net, hoping to go home to catch some sleep, when Jesus came. Jesus preached his message from

Peter's fishing ship, and this must have made this simple fisherman, (for they were simple people), realise that the man he was listening to was a man of God, one with divine authority. When the Master told him to launch out again into the deep waters for a catch, something anchored deep down in his soul, and rather than argue or tell the Master off, he simply obeyed, saying: ***“Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless AT THY WORD I will let down the net.”*** Glory to God! Saints, a fisherman must have a simple heart enough to recognise the divine authority of the Lord, and submit to it, even when everything around him tells him something to the contrary, or even when he does not understand it himself. It is that quality of simple childlike faith that they bear, just like shepherds, which was crucial to their calling on a spiritual plane, for they must be men who will be able to submit totally to the will of the Master, IF they will be successful

fisherMEN. Period! And truly, there is no fisher OF MEN that will be successful, except he does everything by the Word of the Master, which is the Word of God. And although many times, it may look like you are not catching anything; it may look like your toil is not yielding any fruits, and that your ministry is not growing or successful: Just go on labouring for the Lord, as long as you are anchoring your ministry sincerely and solidly upon the immutable rock of revealed truth! I say that because the Lord has a payday, for He is most faithful, and He rewards faithfulness and sincerity, being a covenant keeping God. I repeat: Your payday is coming, even though as it is written in Psalm 30, verse 5: ***“... weeping may endure for a night, BUT JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING.”*** That is a fact! I remember many years ago, when we came into Brother Jackson's continuity message; when by the grace of God we logged on to his ministry, it

was a very lonely journey for us; it was a very lonely road. Brothers and sisters, we were just a little group of about ten or twelve people for many years, and it looked like nothing was working for us, although we were established in the truth, and stood firmly and faithfully for the continuity truth of Jesus Christ. A sister would come, saying: *"I had a dream that there were so many people in the church."* Another brother would also come, saying: *"I had a dream, where I saw that there were so many people in the church, that if you do not come early, there will be no seat."* At that time, and for about ten years, it looked like nothing was working. We toiled and toiled and toiled, and it looked like we were not catching anything. In those days we sat on long wooden benches, one person would sit on a whole bench: he put his Bible beside him on the bench; he put his bag on the bench, next to his Bible; he put his newspaper on another side of the bench, and his bottle of water on another side of the same bench. One person

occupied a whole bench, which is like one person occupying many seats! And the dreams just kept coming, promising that God's children are coming. I just kept wondering: *"Why is it, that it is only in dreams that we are having many people?"* Because it was like that for many years! But today, brothers and sisters, God's fishes are here, because God sees the labour, the faithful labour; God sees the dedication; God sees the sacrifice, and the sincerity with which we did it, all by His grace. Let me therefore re-affirm the truth this morning, that God will always honour the sacrifice of His people, for He loves and rewards faithfulness. He will always reward the faithful and sincere labour of a fisher for His Word, and for His people whom he has been called to serve. So do not think that your labour is in vain. Do not think that you are not prospering, simply because there is not much addition to the fold, because true prosperity is in the light of truth. If only you can be faithful, and

patient, and do not lose hope; just be faithful, and stay with the present truth, patiently, and you will see the hand of God: The Lord makes everything beautiful in His time. Brothers and sisters, the truth is that many times, fishermen toil long and hard, and catch nothing, with all they put into it. There are many days a fisherman goes out and comes back home with nothing, but sunburn, and a weary tired body. And it is exactly the same reality God's men face, speaking on a spiritual plane of **"fishers OF MEN."** What is also true, and this is the good part, is that God rewards diligent persistence in labour, and hence, there is certainly bound to come a payday, a glorious break. And it comes, and this is when fishermen haul in a great catch of fish! What a break they get; what a big break! At such times, they sometimes need their brethren to help them haul it in, and together they haul in the catch: Because God always repays true dedication to His service!

Brothers and sisters, there is always a day designed by God in the course of life for rewarding diligence, so much so that a fisherman will not be able to haul in the catch alone. For a true fisherman, this experience makes it worth it all! And truly, our day of glory is coming, and what a wonderful day that is, though the toil may seem endless and unfruitful right now, and it may look like there is no break in sight. But a true fisherman just cannot leave his vocation, regardless of the storms that may brew, and the endless adversity of his trade, for the love of fish anchors way down deep in his soul, moving him on with total dedication and sacrifice, looking for the big break. How he loves the smell and the mere sight of the fish, for it does something to his heart! Yes! It is because he is a fisherman deep down in his soul! *WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS.* Saints, only God knows the reward that is waiting up there in heaven for all true fishers OF MEN, at the Judgment Seat of Christ; faithful fishers OF

MEN, men who give their all for the cause of the Master. Like a song which they sing at Faith Assembly says of that prize giving day in heaven: ***“We would wish we had done more.”*** A final attribute of fishermen we want to consider in order to refresh our memories, one which we touched upon earlier, is the fact that their vocation is one which is attended by danger, real danger, particularly whilst they are at sea. Their boats can easily capsize, or adverse weather can suddenly brew, one which is very turbulent and dangerous, and they can perish right there at sea, all in a moment of time. And may I remind you, even though it is a notorious fact, that many fishermen die every day whilst fishing, and that is an indisputable fact even as we speak, for it is not an imaginary one, but one which is very real! They may go out and never come back, due to the unpredictable and overwhelming power of the forces of nature; for an earthquake can suddenly happen and trigger a

tsunami or another thing, creating a super wave in the sea, and many fishermen are washed away whilst fishing, just like that! It is a dangerous and life threatening reality they face in the course of their daily vocation, for it is a constant danger that attends their trade. It is very crucial also to point out that inspite of this obvious and ever present danger, true fishermen still love this vocation with a passion, for they are not deterred by it, and are, as such, ready to lay their lives down for this profession, which is why they continue in this vocation, with absolute dedication and commitment, regardless of the possibility of death, and despite the fact that many fishermen die every day, on account of the danger which their profession faces constantly! That is true! This lets us see that the fishing trade is not for the faint hearted, and neither is it for lazy drones! Exactly! You will agree with me, brothers and sisters, that this is one

quality that the Lord also requires on a spiritual level, that is, from those who will be fishers OF MEN! God expects them to give their all to the calling that they have received of fishing FOR MEN, even though it may cost them their lives, for the Master warned the original fishers OF MEN he trained, as recorded in John Chapter 16, verses 1-4: ***“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that WHOSOEVER KILLETH YOU WILL THINK THAT HE DOETH GOD SERVICE. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.”*** Hence, Saint John the beloved apostle implored us in 1 John Chapter 3, verse 16, saying: ***“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he***

laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” In Matthew Chapter 16, verses 24-26, the Master also warned: ***“Then said Jesus unto HIS DISCIPLES, If any man will come after me, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*** He said this, not just to the general body of saints who followed him, but more particularly, he said this on account of the reality of the dangers which the fishers OF MEN will face! For the hazards of spiritual fishing are many and great, bearing a definite price tag of “Death to the fisherman!” And only God knows exactly how many fishers OF MEN have died whilst fishing! Only God knows, for the possibility of death is ever near, and in reality,

they are appointed to persecution, scorn, and death! Yet, the Master expects nothing but absolute dedication and faithfulness, whatever the weather, and whatever the cost or danger; for as it is written in Luke Chapter 17, verse 10, it is expected of an unprofitable servant to be faithful! Yes! And there is a crown of life waiting for them up there in glory, for their labour is definitely not in vain: It has a glorious and an eternal reward. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, thus far, we have laid out the various attributes of fishermen, and the demands of their vocation, and we now understand precisely *Why It Had To Be Fishers*. For in that day, our Lord Jesus Christ chose fishermen, Not shepherds, but fishermen, to go fish for his elect royal people, and these fishers constituted the beginning nucleus of the apostolic head of the New Testament ministry that was established in that day. For three and a half years of Jesus' earthly

ministry, the early church apostles went through a training and a schooling, as Jesus grounded them in the Gospel, investing in them the things they would need for fishing on a higher plane, that is, on a spiritual plane. And by the time he was crucified and rose again, the men were ready to launch out into the sea of the world with the Gospel Net, beginning at Jerusalem, then Samaria, and then to the entire Gentile world. The Lord therefore sent His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, anointing them for a meaningful, effective, and most successful service. Divine fishermen were now made, and were turned loose, and what a work was wrought by these men, for the glory of God, and for the advancement of His Kingdom! It is a notorious fact that they were indeed accomplished fishers OF MEN, and they combed this world, fishing out God's elect children from all waters. They were able to accomplish this great feat, because they were taught and trained by the Master, Jesus Christ our Lord and

Saviour. Saints, we also stressed the fact, that three of the men the Lord Jesus called from among the pool of fishermen on that day, became his three core apostles, the inner caucus apostles, men who were privileged to hear and also witness certain things which no other apostle was so privileged to hear and witness. Moreover, to Simon Peter was given the three keys of the kingdom of heaven, for he became the chief apostle, or as it is written, he became "**The Apostle**" of the Jews, for he received "**the apostleship of the circumcision**", which is the Jews. Furthermore, John, the third of the three core apostles, received one of the three greatest Anointings which God has ever released on men, and this Spirit was reserved for an end time role, for we also have a promise of the return of the Spirit of John, on the full authority of the Scriptures of Truth. However, before the end of the first church age, the original order of ministry died out, for most of them were killed in active

service. The truth is that they all died whilst fishing, for they died right on the job; and we lost this original calibre of "**fishers OF MEN.**" In the Christian world, there we left it all; for there we left the thought and the application of fishers OF MEN. However, in the Gospels, Jesus said something very pertinent, and this profound divine truth, though written and read all through the church ages, somehow passed over all heads, for the truth of it just did not anchor; it did not kick in! It is like God placed a veil over it all through time, right up until this last age, and that is precisely what happened. I now want to bring this message to our day, for that is precisely where I am going to end this message. I pray God will help me today. I will say this afternoon: If the devil thinks I that am going to quit, he is wasting his time; because I am not going to quit, the Lord being my helper, even though I may be buffeted in my flesh. By the grace of God, I will finish the message which the Lord has laid on my

heart, regardless of whatever fleshly infirmity I may suffer. May God help me. Brothers and sisters, in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 13, which we read earlier, Jesus said something very fundamental and prophetic. In the seventh parable of Matthew Chapter 13, a parable which is speaking precisely of this very age, this Laodicean church age, Jesus looked through time by the eye of the Spirit, and zooming in to this last age, made a prophetic utterance buried in a parable. Please pay close attention, for we are speaking of *WHY IT HAD TO BE FISHERS*. Yet, the truth is that fishers of the original cadre are not yet done with, in the revealed plot of God, spiritually speaking. Let us take Mathew Chapter 13, beginning from verse 47, where the Bible records: ***“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a NET...”*** (A Gospel NET, not Nets; because the Gospel Net is one. The Message of Christ is one, and as such, the Net or the Gospel is one, for the Net speaks of the Gospel. Consequently,

we are looking at a fishing dragnet. We will take verse 47 again): ***“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a NET, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.”*** This parable is a prophetic one, and Jesus, having laid the parable out, now declares in verse 49, giving us the specific time application of the prophetic parable, declaring: ***“So shall it be AT THE END OF THE WORLD...”*** Hold it there! This parable was given way back around 32 AD. It is a long range prophecy buried in a parable, a parable that has application in one age, and in one age only, and that is in this seventh and final church age, called the Laodicean church age. Are you with me, church? In this parable, Jesus gave us a promise, a promise which is buried in the parable, of an end time fishing expedition, because he likened this Move to a fishing

expedition, showing us that a divine fishing expedition is re-ignited at the end time, with men carrying the fishing Net. Brothers and sisters, come with me, and open your eyes of faith. Jesus said way back there, that ***“the kingdom of heaven”***, which is the grace age, Jesus looking at a particular time within the grace age, ***“is like unto A NET, that was cast into the sea.”*** The question is this: What was Jesus talking about? You are looking at a move of God at this end time, A FISHING MOVE. Please note that this move does not involve the use of a fishing rod or line, but one which is strictly with the Net, The Dragnet, for it is a fishing Net that was cast into ***“the sea”*** OF HUMANITY, for that is what the sea represents in prophecy, thus giving us a global move of God. Consequently, the parable gives us nothing but the application of a fishing move of the Lord at this end time. Period! And when you look at a dragnet, brothers and sisters, only one man launches it, even though it

takes a plurality of men fishers, for the application of a dragnet. The net is folded systematically for launching, and the launcher takes it, swirls it, and launches it out into the sea. That is the chief launcher! Jesus was speaking in prophecy in this parable of a reality ordained for this age, when the Gospel Net will be launched, thereby paving the way in turn, for the re-launching of an original class of **“fishers OF MEN”**, just as it was in the beginning, back there in the days of Peter, James, and John. For by this parable, fishers OF MEN are promised implicitly or impliedly! However, please also note that we are not speaking of denominational or organisational nets, but strictly of the Gospel Net, although in this particular fishing expedition, which is now a fulfilled reality, they carried just a simple Gospel Net, which gives us a simple message of salvation. But it gives us a dragnet fishing expedition at the end time, nonetheless! Please bear with me, for I want to show you something. This definitely gives us spiritual

fishermen, but the chief launcher of this expedition or this Move, is none other than William Branham, the Elijah of Malachi Chapter 4, verse 6B. In 1946, the Angel of the Lord met him in a cave, and he was told to carry a healing campaign around the world, thereby igniting a Gospel Move, which God set in motion after the Second World War. It was this divine encounter in 1946 that the Lord used to set this fishing expedition in motion, and as I said earlier, Brother Branham was the chief launcher of that expedition, for he was the one that launched the Net; he cast the Net into the sea of the world, thereby spearheading that move, setting that Move in motion, and as such, this Net is tied to his ministry. And it is an undeniable fact that William Branham spearheaded the Post World War 2 Healing revival that broke forth around this globe! Consequently, with this move set in motion through Brother Branham's healing ministry, God began to raise up other men,

evangelists, like A.A. Allen, Oral Roberts, Billy Graham, Morris Cerullo, Tommy Osborne, Tommy Hicks, Jack Coe, on and on their names go. They began to crisscross the world, burning it with a simple Gospel message, backed up with the healing power of the resurrected Christ. However, as Jesus also revealed in that parable, we must also realise that after that fishing expedition had served God's purpose, having about a ten year window; then the Lord shut the expedition down. Hence it is also written: **“... when it was full”**, (for that move had served its purpose), **“THEY”**, (plural healing ministry fishers), **“drew to shore, and SAT DOWN”**, ending that expedition. Let me tell you this morning, a move God set in motion after the Second World War, beginning from the Year 1946, came to a close in the late 50s, and many of these healing evangelists sold the giant crusade tents they carried on the back of trailers around the globe. Some even went

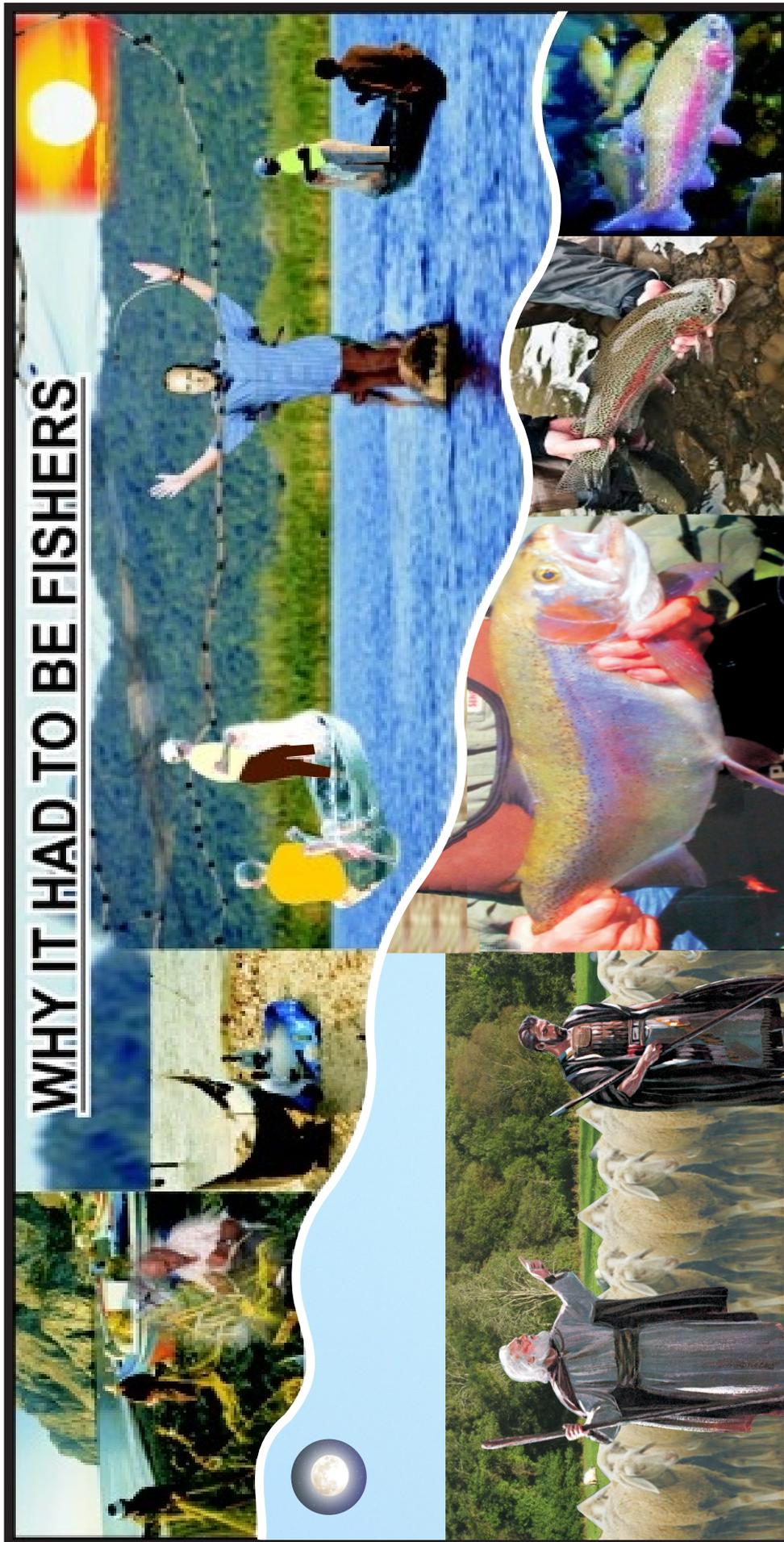
back to their temporal business. Brother Jackson told us of a particular evangelist, for example, who went back to his undertaking business of burying the dead!

Brothers and sisters, may I say that when that move stopped, it was never revived again till this very day, proving the infallibility of our revelation, that that move is over and done with, having served the Lord's purpose. Yet, a few of those men are still alive today, like Billy Graham and Morris Cerullo. Tommy Osborne just passed away last year, precisely on February 14th, 2013, and Oral Roberts on the other hand, passed away on December 15th, 2009. Saints, Morris Cerullo was used greatly way back then in this healing move, and his name featured regularly in those days in

The Voice of Healing Magazine. And although he is still alive as we speak, he is now preaching a carnal, watered down, material gospel of prosperity, and it is certain that he will never see the good old days again. I do not say that to be mean, but only to establish a fact, for the glory has departed, nevermore to return, and that is the truth. It is a fact which no one can change! Saints, this proves without a shadow of a doubt that those men, the calibre of fishermen God raised up in that healing move, which gave us that fishing expedition, were not the calibre of the original fishermen which Jesus started out with, as depicted in the Book of Acts. However, it was a fishing expedition that would eventually lead to the reproduction of that

original calibre of **“fishers OF MEN.”** Nevertheless, that was the beginning of the fishing expedition of God in this last age, for it was only a beginning of God's fishing move in Laodicea. The Move of God for the elect bride was now to follow. And by the grace of God, we will lay this out in the next segment of this message, for we must not forget that by the means of parables, the Lord condenses and also hides truths of the kingdom; for by the means of parables, the mysteries of the kingdom are concealed. Thus saith the Lord Jesus in Matthew Chapter 13, verses 10-14! Let us bow our heads in prayer. (Brother Amos prayed).

The Lord bless you.



DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE contd.

22. The Walking Voice, Parts 1 & 2 (October 2007).
23. The Man That Was Caught Up, Parts 1 & 2 (December 2007).
24. Genesis: The Creation Of The Universe (January 2008).
25. Genesis: The Eden Of Angels (February 2008).
26. Genesis: The Eden Of Man (March 2008).
27. Genesis: Cain And Abel (April 2008).
28. Genesis: The Mark Of Cain (June 2008).
29. Genesis: The Mixing Of Seeds (July 2008).
30. Genesis: The Travails Of Ham (August 2008).
31. Why Continuity?, Parts 1 - 5 (September 2008 - February 2009).
32. The Promise Of John - Parts 1 & 2 (March - April 2009).
33. The Spirit Of John - (June 2009).
34. John: The Angel's Feet Placing (July 2009).
35. John: The Eating Of The Scroll (August 2009).
36. John: Completing The Voice Of The Seventh Angel (September 2009).
37. John: The Foundation And The Plumbline (October 2009).
38. John: They Confessed And Denied Not (December 2009).
39. The Unseen Headship Of Jesus Christ (January 2010).
40. The Beautiful Bride - Part 1 (February 2010)
41. John, Angels, And Prophecy; *Special Edition* (March 2010).
42. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 2 & 3 (June 2010)
43. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 4 & 5 (August 2010)
44. The Beautiful Bride - Part 6 (September 2010)
45. Demonology: The New Face Of The Contender; *Special Edition* (October 2010).
46. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 7 - 9 (December 2010 - February 2011).
47. Latter Rain (March 2011).
48. Joel's Army (April 2011).
49. An Unholy And Profane Sign (June 2011)
50. A Religion On Its Last Trail - Part 1 - 4 (July - October 2011).
51. He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They? Part 1 & 2 (Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012)
52. After Two Days (February 2012)
53. Who Are The Foolish Virgins? (March 2012)
54. Ham Is In The Covenant (April 2012)
55. The Hour Of Gold - Part 1 - 2 (June - July 2012)
56. Rapturing Faith (August 2012)
57. The Revelation Of God Is One (September 2012)
58. The Angel Of Time: Who Is He? (October 2012)
59. The Restoration Of The Serpent? (December 2012)
60. The White Throne Judgment (January 2013)
61. The Seventh Seal (February 2013)
62. The Threefold Mystery Of The Seventh Seal (March 2013)
63. Sin Lieth At The Door (April 2013)
64. The Present Day Identity Of The Serpent (June 2013)
65. Doors In Door (July 2013)
66. Ezekiel 38 And 39 Battle - A Revisit (August 2013)
67. The Apostolic Ministry: Timothy And Titus. (September 2013)
68. The Application Of Types And Shadows (*Principles Of Types And Shadows*) - Parts 1 & 2 (Oct. - Dec. 2013)
69. The Application Of Types And Shadows (*The Wilderness Experience*) - Part 3 (January 2014)
70. The Application Of Types And Shadows (*Who Is This Melchizedek?*) - Parts 4 & 5 (Feb. - Mar. 2014)
71. The Seven Spirits Before The Throne (April 2014)
72. God In The Laodicean Age: The Year 2005 - Parts 1 & 2 (June 2014)
73. The Input Of Ham (July 2014)
74. The Lead Thunder, And The Chronology Of Revelation 10 - Parts 1-3 (July 2014)
75. Revisiting Armageddon - Parts 1 & 2 (August 2014)
76. Why It Had To Be Fishers - Parts 1 - 2 (September 2014)
77. God In The Laodicean Age: The Year 2005 (*Knowing The Objective Of God*) - Parts 3 & 4 (Oct 2014)

Announcement

Our Convention dates for 2014 & 2015 are as follows:

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| 1. May Convention: 15th - 18th May, 2014. | 2. Nov. Convention: 13th - 16th Nov., 2014. |
| 3. May Convention: 14th - 17th May, 2015. | 4. Nov. Convention: 19th - 22nd Nov., 2015. |

NOTE: Our email address has changed.

All are welcome to the meetings. If you need more information, or if you have any questions or any comments, please feel free to contact us. All correspondence should be addressed to:

pastorbft@yahoo.com

For those who prefer to write, our postal address is at the bottom of this page. We look forward to hearing from you.

DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE

1. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (January 2007).
2. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Part 3: The Uniqueness Of The Ministry (January 2007).
3. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 4&5: Testing For Faithfulness (January 2007).
4. Locating God: The Visitation Of God, Parts 1&2 (February 2007).
5. Affinity With Evil (February 2007).
6. Where Are We? (February 2007).
7. The Way Forward (February 2007).
8. The Plot, Parts 1 - 4 (March 2007).
9. The Seven Thunders In Relation To The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (March 2007).
10. The Jewish Connection, Parts 1 & 2 (April 2007).
11. The Third Pull (June 2007).
12. The Third Pull, And The Three Steps Into The Rapture (June 2007).
13. The Angel Of The Seventh Seal (June 2007).
14. They Came To Present Themselves, Parts 1&2 (July 2007).
15. The Invitation (July 2007).
16. The Promise To The Overcomer, Parts 1-3 (July 2007).
17. The Manifestation Of The Sons Of God (July 2007).
18. A Woman Rises In America (July 2007).
19. The Prophetic Ministry Of William Branham, Parts 1-4 (August 2007).
20. The Three Scribes (September 2007).
21. Ministerial Irresponsibility (September 2007).

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*Stand by the Rock of revealed Truth.
It makes the difference!
Matt. 16:15-18*

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