



“...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.” Matthew 13:47

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HUNKY DORY—Where did the saying come from? Also where did “hunky dory” go? It is a disappearing idiom. It seems to mean “just great, all right, fine, and satisfactory”. It may be a bit worn around the edges, but I like the saying and pledge to keep using it. The *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* says what seems certain is that “hunky dory” was a play on an existing sense of the word “hunky” for something that was fine, splendid or satisfactory. In turn, this probably derives from the adjective “hunk”, which means that one is all right or in a safe or good position. This derives from the Dutch “honk”, meaning “goal” or “home” in a Frisian variant of the game of tag. This word (and presumably the game, too) was said to have been taken by the Dutch to New Amsterdam, later New York, but was first recorded around the 1840s. It has links to another reduplicated term, “hunkum-bunkum”. Though the first part sounds a bit like the “hunker” or “hunker down” (which is also of Dutch origin), the words seem not to be related. It may be that “hunky dory” was the result of a bilingual pun, perhaps invented because American sailors knew the word “dori” and prefixed it with “hunky”.

Another theory places it from 1876 to “Honcho Dori”, said to be a street in Yokohama, Japan, where sailors went for diversions of the sort sailors enjoy. It is also found in a book of songs by Tony Pastor, and is called “Hunky-dory”. Here are a few phrases from that song:

Now if a man is poor,
Relations all will shun him.
And if he owes a bill,
His creditors will dun him.
But let him make a bit,
Then it’s quite a different story.
They’ll fawning come around him,
Just because he’s hunky-dory.

Whatever the origin, this is something I wish for all our readers....that you are “Hunky Dory” physically. I do know what it is like to have physical problems, too many to enumerate. A recent storm (sickness) took my “Hunky Dory” for a while, but now the dory sits on a calm sea. So many areas of life prove to be filled with difficulty, but again my wish for you is that you can have that “Hunky Dory” experience. 3 John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” More so spiritually; the only way to be “Hunky Dory” within is to have the God of goodness and peace on the inside. Colossians 1:27, “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” When this is true, the events of life that

shake our ship cannot be felt within because peace is in the heart. Sometimes instead of calming our difficult seas of life outwardly, He just calms the child of God inwardly. In my soul I am glad to be HUNKY DORY! Ephesians 2:14, “For he (Christ) is our peace...!”

STAY THE COURSE—What does this denote? There are several possibilities as to where this phrase originated. Personally, I believe that it is a nautical expression. For a seafarer, to stay the course means to maintain a constant, unfaltering course while navigating. When we take the phrase in this framework, “stay” is in reference to the ropes or guys and sheets that hold the mainsail in a fixed position proper for the heading. To “stay the course”, we must persist; we must remain on course in spite of setbacks and persecution. The ships that sail the seas of the world chart their course before they leave the port. I have watched as a Master looks over the charts and sets the path the ship will take. In Acts 16:11-12 we read of a journey that Paul took by ship. Note the words “straight course”. The course was set by the Captain, and in the providence of God. We read further that it was on this course that Lydia came to know Christ. If you will recognize the sovereignty of Jehovah, He will direct you on life’s journey. “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6). It is also good to know that God has given us His Word to guide us. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). **Stay the course!** —CF in “Maritime Minutes”

EARTHLY CHANGES=WHAT?—A man may pass from the lowest ignorance unto the highest intelligence. He may exchange the most degraded poverty for the most exalted riches. He may come out of the greatest obscurity into the largest publicity. He may rise from the narrowest circle of influence into the widest sphere of power. He may pass from one extreme to another in all things: moral, intellectual, political, social, and civil. However, through all those changes he may still retain his nature to do evil, still have his aversion to do good, and still continue to be a stranger to the new birth as it exists in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. No earthly change whatsoever can be a substitute for the change which only comes from above. “Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). —John Bate

A NEW CAPTAIN—There was a poor man about sixty years old. He had been a rough sailor—one of the worst men in the village. It was his custom to drink, and he seemed to be delighted when he was cursing and swearing. He came into a church one Sunday and

heard preaching about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. He could not understand why Jesus would do so, and knew for sure Jesus would never weep over him.

The man thought, "Why would Jesus Christ ever weep over such a wretch as I am?" He thought he was too bad for Christ to care for him. As the gospel was presented, he heard of a love that reached out to all men and it broke and softened his heart.

At last he came to the preacher and said, "Sir, sixty years have I been sailing under the standard of the devil. It is time I should have a new owner. I want to scuttle the old ship and sink her altogether! Then I shall have a new owner, and I shall sail under the colors of Prince Jesus!"

Ever since that moment, that man has been a praying man and has walked before God in all sincerity. Yet he was the very last man you would have thought would be saved and converted. Somehow God does not choose just the "best" men. He will also take the filthiest and the vilest, and fashion them into glorious beings; making them saints. Whereas they were sinners, He then sanctifies them and makes them holy. Hebrews 7:25, *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

--C.H. Spurgeon

OUT OF SIGHT—I watched an old man trout fishing the other day, pulling them out one after another briskly. "You manage it cleverly, old friend," I said. "I have passed a good many below who don't seem to be doing anything."

The old man lifted himself up and stuck his rod in the ground. "Well, you see, there are three rules for trout fishing and it's no good trying if you don't obey them. The first is, Keep yourself out of sight. The second is, Keep yourself further out of sight. The third is, Keep yourself further and further out of sight."

That is good for catching men too. John 3:30, *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* --Mark Pearse

THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN—"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

"No!" all the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again the answer was, "No!"

"If I caught lots of fish and had you over for a big meal just like Jesus did, would I get into heaven?" (The answer was still "No!")

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: And may I add, saved...then dead. John 14:6, *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

FISHY QUESTION—From last edition, the name of the city/town that means "house of fish" in Hebrew is

Bethsaida. For this edition solve this riddle: Why was the area around the Jordan River especially wealthy? (Hint: Joshua 3). Let us hear from you!

FISHY WISDOM

"You'll be a man like one of us some day," said the patronizing, high-tech sportsman to a lad who was throwing his line into the same stream.

"Yes sir," he answered. "I suppose I will some day, but I believe I'd rather stay small and catch a few fish."

--If you take your boat in shallow waters, know where the stumps are!

--The stern of a shrimp trawler was my Yale & Harvard.

--It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

--Never cut what you can untie.

If you don't read a newspaper you are uninformed.

If you do read a newspaper you are misinformed.

--Mark Twain

A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have.

--Thomas Jefferson

I talked to a homeless man this morning and asked him how he ended up this way. He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat (even fish once a week), my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had TV and internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage."

I felt sorry for him, so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"

"Oh, no, nothing like that," he said. "I was paroled."

LIFE FROM THE SEAT OF A TRACTOR

A lot of commercial fishermen in this area were farmers. Below are some words of wisdom that even from farmers fit well with the fishing industry.

--Every path has a few puddles.

--When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

--Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

--Always drink upstream from the herd.

--Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

--Meanness doesn't just happen overnight.

--The best sermons are lived, not preached.

--Don't judge folks by their relatives.

--Don't interfere with something that ain't bothering you none.

--If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

--Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

--Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

--Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God.