



**Volume XXXVI  
June 22, 2020**

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

**Number 3**

**A WAKE UP CALL**—In the summer of 1959, after a night of work (commercial fishing), we were running out of the Gulf of Mexico in towards Mobile Bar Pass to find anchorage inside of Ft. Morgan peninsula. The captain (my father) came to the back deck of the vessel where we were working to separate the shrimp from the bycatch, and saw me, as a young, tired, dirty crewman and had pity on me. He said to go to the pilothouse and he would finish my job. This meant sitting in the comfortable captain's chair, and, at fifteen, pretending that I now was "the skipper". The autopilot had to be disengaged almost immediately because we had made it to the first buoy (called the sea buoy). From then on my job was to manually keep the boat in between a green and red set of buoys ahead. These buoys keep you in the deep channeled area, avoiding shallow water on both sides. On the east side of the channel was Dixie Bar. You dared not get out of the channel to the east or you were in trouble. Guess what? After a couple sets of buoys were passed, the channel made a turn to the north; I missed the turn. Do you know why? You guessed it! I called it "resting my eyelids". In no more than a minute, the boat rose up under about a three-foot sea, then down in the trough of waves (but down wasn't in water—it was on sand!). The keel of the boat hit bottom, then up again with the Captain now in the pilothouse aglow with fury calling, "Wake up!" He grabbed the helm, rolled quickly to the left full-throttle, and (AMEN!) we were safe. Just a few more yards would have meant loss to the vessel and maybe the crew. It happened so quickly! The chair felt so comfortable! I had been up most of the night. My eyelids felt as if they were made of lead. I was feeling the slow roll of the boat and the cool morning salt air and I was ASLEEP at the wheel! I will never forget it (in more ways than one); neither has my dad.

That occasion has always reminded me of a Bible verse, Ephesians 5:14, "*...Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*" If you are unsaved, unprepared for eternity, you are like I was years ago—heading for destruction, ASLEEP! You must allow Jesus in to turn you around (it is called repentance in the Bible). "*...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*" (Luke 13:3,5). Do it now. For believers, we too are lured to sleep when we take control of our lives. Satan's cool breezes of worldliness and pleasures take hold as we sit at ease in the chair of inactivity. The Captain calls out, "AWAKE!" Are you listening?

Editor's Note—I believe the world is getting a wake up call through the viral pandemic, but instead of it producing a fear of God, it I has only produced a fear of disease and a look to science and government for help. It would be so easy now for an anti-God or anti-

Christ to come to the scene with miraculous remedies for the world's ailments. He could easily be the "sand" man coming to put all to sleep. God is shaking this planet; the storms of the wrath of God are on the horizon. Keep those spiritual eyes open. 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*"

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**BOAT-TO-TABLE**—In the small town of Portsmouth, NH, a fishing community is desperately trying to make ends meet in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The national pandemic could not have come at a worse time for these fishermen—the very beginning of the season.

"The fishing industry right now is really struggling. So a lot of guys are just not fishing and have gone on unemployment," said the general manager of New Hampshire Community Seafood. "Almost every fisherman I know has applied for the EIDL loan or the paycheck protection program loan." Since buyers haven't been entering local fish markets, some fishermen turned to social media, with a twist on the trendy farm-to-table movement—"boat-to-table".

The process is simple. Locals place their order on the fishing boat's Facebook page, and then they get told a pickup date and time. After that, customers wait at the dock with containers and bags filled with ice, ready to pick up their catch. It's not just a great idea to support the local community, but it also creates a direct market for local seafood.

The beauty of local seafood is that it passes through very few hands before it goes to the consumer. So, in this case, with the lobster, it's going through one set of hands. It's really hard to find food that is only going through only one set of gloved hands. People who want to reel in a good catch don't have to worry about safety, The sternman, his wife, her girlfriend, everyone had on masks and gloves. People were told to bring their own their own bag or their own cooler when they are picking up the lobster. People were social distancing six feet apart. Aside from this being the freshest fish you can find, there's one more good reason to support your local fishermen. If we don't start buying locally, these guys are going to go out of business. —Krystina Alarcon P.S. It could be a good biblical thing to do also. John 21:9,10, "*As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.*"

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At 11,500 feet, the world's highest waterfall is located off the coast of Denmark and it is completely UNDERWATER!

Definition of "hoppilankalle". A Swedish word for the person who hops from a boat to dock it.

**SPIRITUAL BALLAST**—A ship without a proper cargo onboard can be unstable, begin to list, and maybe even capsize and sink. Ships are designed and built by their designers and shipbuilders with proper stability when carrying a suitable cargo. In a storm a ship too lightly loaded, called being “in-ballast”, is in grave danger of sinking. In WWII a hurricane capsized and sank several US Navy destroyers taking all hands down. Over 700 men drowned. Had those ships been properly “ballasted” they probably would have survived as did all of the other ships.

I have to believe God designed and built us to carry our cargo with HIM (ballast) aboard, thus keeping our ship stable and safe in any storm. If we were to sail “in-ballast” then we would begin to list, maybe capsize and sink. Could it be that our burdens, cares, problems, sorrows are but divine ballast to keep us balanced and stable in this life? 2 Corinthians 12:10, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

--Retired Capt. Peter S.

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### THE SHIP THAT SAILS

I’d rather be the ship that sails  
And rides the billows wild and free,  
Than to be the ship that always fails  
To leave its port and go to sea.

I’d rather feel the sting of strife,  
Where gales are born and tempests roar  
Than to settle down to useless life  
And rot in dry dock on the shore.

I’d rather fight some mighty wave  
With honor in supreme command,  
And fill at least a well-earned grave,  
Than to die in ease upon the sand.

--Page Belnap

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### NAUTICAL LANGUAGE

**KEEL HAULING**—This was a naval punishment during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The crew member who was to be punished was dragged under the bottom of the boat from one side of the boat to the other. The term “keel-hauled” is still used to mean a severe punishment. Jonah 1:12, *“...Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea...”*.

**KEEL OVER**—This describes the action of a boat that rolls over, often as a result of a strong wind gust. Today the expression is often used in reference to a person being emotionally “turned over” or upset as well as a reference to a person dying. Acts 5:5, *“And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost...”*.

**KEEP AN EVEN KEEL**—A nautical term for keeping a boat upright, not heeling over to either side. Today the expression is used when describing a person’s emotions. To “keep an even keel” is to remain level-headed or emotionally stable. 2 Kings 22:2, *“...and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.”*

**KNOT**—The term knot is used worldwide to denote one’s speed through water and means the number of nautical miles per hour. One nautical mile is equal to 1852 meters or 1.15 statute miles. The term comes

from the method of using a rope or line marked with knots at even intervals to measure the boat’s speed. At one end of the line there would be a log or some other type of sea anchor that was thrown over from the stern. The knotted line was allowed to run freely for a specific amount of time after which it was hauled back onboard where the number of knots could be counted, giving the number of knots of forward speed. Philippians 3:14, *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

**KNOW THE ROPES**—This is a term that originally meant to know the proper use of the many ropes the older sailing vessels had. Today the term means to be accomplished or be proficient at some particular job or task. John 2:24, *“But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men.”*

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--If man really had his priorities straight, there would be a shortage of cast nets and fishing rods.

--Don’t spit into the wind.

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### EXERCISE PLAN

Most people run from any form of physical exercise that is good for you at any age. Movement is life, but some are only....

...jumping to conclusions.

...climbing walls.

...dragging their heels.

...pushing their luck.

...running in circles.

...putting their foot in their mouth.

...wading through paperwork.

...beating the bushes.

...making mountains out of mole hills.

...bending over backwards.

...opening a can of worms.

This is an easy exercise program, but will avail nothing beneficial physically. Consider something that will affect those spiritual muscles. It will help you to “get the ball rolling”. 1 Timothy 4:8, *“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”*

--T. McElyea

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**WAVES COULD DRIVE YOU TO GOD**—A little boy made a boat. He went off in high glee to sail it on the water. Presently it got beyond his reach. In his distress he appealed to a big boy for help, asking him to get it back for him. Saying nothing, the big boy picked up stones, and seemingly threw them at the boat. The little boy thought he would never get his boat back, and that instead of helping him, the big boy was annoying him. With eyes filled with tears, he screamed and hollered for the big boy to stop. But presently he noticed that instead of hitting the boat, each stone went BEYOND it, and made a little wave, which moved the boat a little nearer to the shore. Every throw of the stones was PLANNED, and at last the little boat was brought within reach. How happy the little boy was!

Sometimes things in our lives seem without sense or plan. But let us WAIT awhile, and we shall see that each striking of a stone upon the quiet water of our lives, could bring us NEARER to God! Psalm 56:3, *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”*