



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

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FAIR WINDS, FAREWELL, GOODBYE—For the men who go down to the sea in ships, saying “farewell, goodbye, so long” is an often occasion. My father, a third-generation commercial fisherman, often had to say goodbye to my mother and me (I was the oldest). He was involved in the harvest of shrimp, and the seasons for such demanded him to work from the Florida coast to the Texas coast. Since our harbor and home was in coastal Alabama, this meant leaving the dock and returning later after one to three weeks. For a little fellow who loved his dad, the time gone seemed forever. The goodbyes were sad. Our house was right on the Bon Secour River, so when he left he would have to pass right in front of our house and he would step out of the pilot house of his boat and wave goodbye. I would grab a tree by the water’s edge and hold it tightly, pretending it was him, and cry for a while. Watching him until he was out of sight hurt so bad, but now is just a memory.

My father trained me well in his occupation, so as time went on, I became the one who was leaving, not the one left behind. After marrying in 1963, leaving the dock, waving goodbye to my newlywed wife, heading for the fishing grounds continued to hurt. Some of my fellow fishermen would laugh, saying for them it was good to get away from the wife, kids, dogs, etc. for a few days. I suppose they just didn’t have the home life I had.

Now in my 70s, goodbyes still are hard, whether it is my kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, other loved ones, friends, etc. it still hurts my heart a bit, but since I trusted Christ as my Saviour (1966), some comfort comes with the goodbyes. Like when my dad passed away in 2013, because he, too, was a born-again Christian, instead of goodbye (speaking of something permanent), we merely said to each other, so long. A German word is “bis spater” (see you later), which is true. I will see my dad again. So the salvation which is in Jesus Christ alone really removes the “goodbyes”. Isn’t that wonderful? So sad for those who are unsaved. For them goodbyes are permanent, forever.

This reminds me of Jesus’ words in John 14 when he was telling them goodbye. He said, “*Let not your heart be troubled...*”. His goodbye hurt so bad, but He brought comfort to them by saying he would see them again (“...I will come again...”).

Editor’s Note--The reason for this article is because in 2019 we have had to say “goodbye” to many of our friends who received our bi-monthly publication called THE CAST NET. We have developed THE CAST NET, printed it and sent it out for thirty-four years. Now, due to changes in this ministry and funds, it has been curtailed. I will endeavor to post THE CAST NET on our website quarterly, and mail it to supporters. I love writing about nautical things and seeing the

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parallels from a biblical perspective, and will continue to do so as God gives me ability.

So Bro. Mund is saying “so long” for this time. See you next time when in port (and promise to come again)!

SHIPWRECKS—When we think of shipwrecks we are usually focused on an event in the past. But recently off St. Simons Island, Georgia, a ship named *Golden Ray* (656’) capsized when leaving port. It was a car carrier with over 4,200 cars aboard, and a crew of twenty-three, plus the pilot. Why the ship flipped on its side is still uncertain. All the crew except four were immediately brought to safety by a helicopter, and the remaining crew were rescued by cutting a hole into the vessel’s hull. Three of the crew members (Korean) were in a room in the hull near the ship’s propeller; the remaining crew member was trapped behind glass in the ship’s engineering department. They spent over thirty hours trapped inside and were glad to be freed.

This story reminded me of a shipwreck I found in the Bible (1 Timothy 1:19), where two men turned over as to their beliefs and sank in error and apostasy. How sad for the apostle Paul because those men were among the ones that sailed with him for years. To be trapped in error must be horrible, especially if Satan holds the doors of escape closed.

To be perfectly honest, all those who have not Christ as Saviour are in a sinking condition. Is there any help for those who find themselves in such a state? Of course the answer is yes! Truth is searching for those who are trapped in sin, like the Coast Guard was searching for those trapped inside the *Golden Ray*. Responding to truth can set one free. God will cut a hole through any circumstance to get to a seeking sinner. This writer is a perfect example. How about you, my friend? Listen to truth as it knocks on your door. “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32).

UNDER THE WAVES—A wicked sailor by the name of Jim Brown had a loving, widowed, Christian mother. She prayed for his salvation continually and was assured that he would one day become a Christian. One day a man knocked on the door of her small cottage and gave her some very sad news that her son had gone down in the Pacific Ocean with eight other sailors. “Just how did he die, sir?” Afraid to tell her the truth, he hesitated, but at last said he went down under the waves cursing and swearing against God. Stunned, she hung her head. “It can’t be, sir.” On the wall was her favorite text of Scripture, *WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE*. “Sir, I must believe that God has saved him; the Lord must have met him under the waves.”

Over six months passed and the incident did nothing to affect the faith of the mother. She thought

of her son often, but knew nothing could be done now. On Christmas Eve she received a letter. She tore it open and the writing seemed to dance before her eyes. She read, "Dear Mother, I am alive; will be home soon. God has saved not only my body, but also my soul. Your son, Jimmie."

Upon his arrival she saw a changed man, thinner and paler, but with a new look. She learned that when he had almost drowned, a floating board kept him alive, enabling him to reach shore. A fisherman had cared for him for weeks, getting him back to health. After earning money by fishing, he managed to work his way back home. Mrs. Brown could take it no longer. "Please, Jimmie, tell me how you met the Lord." "Mom, when I sank it seemed as if all my sinful past came before me in a few seconds. I called for God's help in repentance. Mom, He met me **BENEATH THE WAVES!**" Psalm 139:7,9,10, "*Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*"

EFFECTS OF SIN SIMPLY SEEN—SIN FOOLS—Some wild ducks had a feeding place among the reeds, growing on the edge of a river in Africa. Some native boys discovered the regular visits of the ducks and planned to catch them. They placed pumpkins on the river among the reeds. At first the ducks were nervous when they saw the pumpkins, and flew away. Soon they decided there was no harm in the pumpkins, and returned to their feeding place among the reeds.

A few days later, the boys took pumpkins, scooped the inside out, made two small holes through which to see, and then placed the pumpkins over their heads. Quietly they slipped into the river with only the pumpkins showing above the water. Slowly, they moved toward the ducks. The ducks were not alarmed when they saw the pumpkins; they had seen the pumpkins before. Soon the boys were among the ducks. They caught them by their legs under the water and killed them for their food.

From this we can learn if one is not wise, he will grow accustomed to the sight of sin, or mock its power, to later be pulled under by sin's power. Be not deceived! Proverbs 14:9, "*Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor.*"

SUBTRACTION=ADDITION—A lone shipwreck survivor on an uninhabited island managed to build a crude hut in which he placed all he had saved from his sinking ship. He prayed daily to God for deliverance, anxiously watching the horizon each day to hail any passing ship.

One day he was horrified to find his hut in flames. All he had was gone. To the man's limited vision, it was the worst that could happen, and he cursed God. The very next day a ship arrived. "We saw your smoke signal!" the captain told him. (Never think that God's delays are God's denials. Romans 8:28, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*")

YUM, YUM, JELLYFISH—Since I was a child, jelly has had a big part of my life. Strawberry, blackberry,

peach, pear, fig, cherry, etc. were some favorites. Now they say I must include a fish-flavored variety, jellyfish! It is a big hit, especially in SE Asia (the cannonball variety—dried). The annual market demand for jellyfish in Japan, Korea and Taiwan is approximately 175,000 metric tons.

I'm wondering how it would taste with peanut butter! This at least has given some of us fishermen along the Gulf coast an alternate product to harvest. I guess sea nettles (hot, stinging kind) would be the Cajun variety. Psalm 107:23,24, "*They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these **see** the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.*"

IMPOSSIBLE FISH—California-based food technology company Impossible Foods, best known for its flagship product the Impossible Burger, is working to develop plant-based fish to tackle the surmounting crisis in the world's oceans created by industrial fishing. The company is using its technology platform to build fish from plants and last month, Impossible Foods was able to construct a broth that, according to CEO Patrick O. Brown, tastes similar to anchovies—with which the company made paella. While the final formulation has yet to be developed, Impossible Foods will use the key ingredient from its burgers—soy leghemoglobin, or "heme"—to build its plant-based fish. -VegNews

--**Editor's Note**—I recently saw a promo for the veggie burger where someone said, "Tastes like the real meat burger!" And another in the background said, "Somebody's lying!" There's nothing like the real thing. Bring on the fish and chips!

FISHY HUMOROUS SAYINGS

Many a problem would solve itself if you just forgot it and went fishing.

A fisherman said that for him, money used to talk; later it whispered, and now it just sneaks off.

Another said it is not facing the music that hurts; it's having to listen to some of it that's deadly.

A young fisherman said to his girlfriend, "What would I have to give you to get just one little kiss?" The girl answered, "Chloroform!"

"GOLD" FISH—A pet owner in Brisbane, Australia bought a goldfish for \$12 and named it Conquer. After a day or two she noticed the fish struggling, evidently choking on a piece of rock. Not knowing what to do, she rushed Conquer to the Brisbane Bird and Exotics Veterinary Service. The vet did a drip anesthetic into the water to put the fish to sleep. Then they tilted his mouth out of the water to use forceps to extract the lodged stone. The stone was stuck lengthways across the side of the mouth, which is why the fish could not spit it out. If they would have done nothing the fish would have died.

The procedure saved Conquer's life. It cost \$100 for emergency consultation, plus \$400 for the anesthetic and an overnight stay in the hospital. A fully recovered Conquer is now back at home in his tank, where his owner can claim he is literally worth his weight in gold! (Like our friends!)