



Grace Bible Chapel

Lord's Day, 29, 2020

Pastor Ken's Biblical Nuggets

You Can't Catch Fish With Dirty Nets

(Ken's Commentary: Pope Francis Praise Bishop Who Kneels With BLM)

Washing Their Nets:

*“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 **washing their nets**” (Luke 5:12).***

Clean nets are critical in catching fish. It's incumbent upon fishermen to wash their nets after each catch to remove the weeds, sand, pebbles, mud, and debris. Dirty nets frighten the fish. Fish can see a dirty net, even from a long distance. The water in the Sea of Galilee was usually very clear, making it easier for the fish to see the nets and the boats. This is why most of the fishing was done at night in this region.

Biblical Principles:

“Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?” It's incumbent upon soul winners to know that they've been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Because lost sinners do not gravitate to professing Christians who lack discretion and have questionable morals. People maybe lost, but they can generally see through phonies and frauds, even religious phonies and frauds.

Mending Their Nets:

*“And going on from hence, **He** saw two other brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, **mending their nets**; and **He** called them” (Matthew 4:21).*

Biblical Principals:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart today; Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be a wicked way in me; cleanse me from every sin and set me free.”

Those who fish know that a torn net can't catch fish. How can a torn life mend a torn heart? Just as James and John mended their nets, so our Lord mends our hearts when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9). *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ... Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. ... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:10, 13).*

Casting Their Nets:

“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” (Mark 1:16-18).

Biblical Principles:

After the net has been washed (“... be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD” - Isaiah 52:11). And after the net has been mended (“Search me. O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” - (Psalms 139:23-24). Then the servant of the Lord is prepared to cast the gospel net and catch men. Nets were expensive and required hard work to maintain, so men used them with great care. Much of a fisherman's time was spent washing, mending, and drying their nets. Likewise, the spiritual fisherman is to keep his life free of moral pollution and vain philosophies which exalts themselves against the knowledge of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

The Dragnet:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into the vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the age: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:47-50).

Biblical Principles:

This parable speaks of the final judgment at the end of the tribulation when the Lord Jesus shall separate; the true believers from the make-believer. “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” There is only one right motivation for sharing the good-news of the Gospel. We must have a fervent love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and have a fervent love for His Word. And we must have a fervent love for the lost and desire to see them saved. Be sure you are in the Gospel-net!

The Pope Stands In Solidarity With Black Lives Matter:

Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, was the first U.S. Catholic bishop to take a knee with Black Lives Matter. He received a two-three-minute call from Pope Francis, and the Pope “said he wanted to congratulate me,” Seitz said. “I told the pope that I felt it was very important at this time for us to show our solidarity with those who are suffering. The Pope also praised Seitz for praying for George Floyd.

Reaching Catholics For Christ: There are 4 spiritual blessings that Christ offers to sinners that are totally foreign to most Catholics: (1) His complete forgiveness of sins; (2) His imputed righteousness; (3) His assurance of eternal Life; (4) A personal relationship with God through The Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12, Ro. 10:9-10, 2 Cor. 5:19).