

SINGLE ALLIANCE

01/04/09

THE STORY OF THE TWO NETS

I. Introduction

- A. Happy New Year! Today I want to look at the story of two nets.
- B. This is usually a time that people make resolutions. I want to look at a man who was full of resolutions but came to understand that they could not be realized in the strength of his flesh but only by the grace of God.
- C. I want to look at nets of a fisherman named Simon Peter
- D. Texts: [**Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-8**]

II. The First Net

- A. [**Luke 5:1-8**]
- B. Jesus used Peter's boat to preach the Word of God. Peter was washing his nets while Jesus spoke.
- C. They had fished all the night before but had caught nothing. All his hard work and toil resulted in nothing.
- D. After Jesus finished speaking he told Peter to launch out into the deep and to let down the NETS for a catch. Peter reminded Jesus that he had fished all night and caught nothing but to humor the preacher Peter let down the NET. This probably was an old extra net he had because he did not want to re-wash the nets he just cleaned!
- E. The Holy Spirit tells us in this story that the net broke. It was not ready or fit to fulfill the command of God. Jesus knew the net Peter would use would not be sufficient. This is why He said let down the NETS.
- F. Peter was full of his own plans, ideas, and relied on his own strength. The Lord told him to do one thing but Peter has to do it his way. His way fails. His way brought a broken net.
- G. Peter is represented in this net. Peter thought he could make it on his own. He thought he had things under hand and had things figured out. He relied on himself to make it. This only would bring brokenness to his life like his net. When we remain unbroken of self trust we will be unable to be used by God to any great extent. Peter was not ready to be fisher of men until his self trust and legalistic mindset was broken.
- H. Peter was works minded. He had a legalistic mindset. His view of God is that you get what you deserve from God. That is why when Jesus did a big miracle for Peter that Peter told Jesus to depart from Him because He was a sinful man. Peter did not think Jesus really knew him

and if He did He would have not blessed Him like he did. Those that are self reliant are usually the most legalistic when it comes to God.

H. Throughout the ministry of Jesus during those three and half years the self will and self reliance showed itself again and again in Peter. It finally found it's height at the last supper.

I. Jesus tells the disciples at the last supper that one would deny him. Peter was so bold as to say this: [**Mar 14:29**] But Peter said to Him, Even if they all fall away and are caused to stumble and distrust and desert You, yet I will not [*do so*]!

J. On the surface this great resolution and declaration appears most noble. What commitment this shows. However, upon a deeper look it shows us his legalistic mindset in great detail. Peter looked around the table at each man and sized them up and said to Jesus, I am better than all these monkies. I will be the last man standing when the chips are down for you Jesus.

K. Peter's net was about to break big time! Jesus told Peter that before the night was over he would deny knowing Him three times!

L. [**Luke 22:55-62**]- The rock crumbles before a little servant girl!

M. Peter's net breaks- vs. 62- Peter went out and wept bitterly.

II. The Second Net

A. I can only imagine what Peter went through those three days Jesus was in the grave. His world came crashing down around Him. He had denied the only One that really had really loved Him like he needed to be loved.

B. He came to the realization of two things: What he was really was capable of doing- Denying His Lord and What he was incapable of doing- loving, serving, and laying down His life for God in His own ability.

C. Peter had yet to learn one last lesson before He was ready to be used of God. He must learn what God is capable of in and through Him.

D. Peter was about to really learn what the grace of God was all about.

E. When Jesus arose from the dead the women who came to the tomb to see Jesus saw an angel. This angel told them to tell the disciples and PETER that He had arisen. He specifically singled out Peter to alert His attention.

F. I am sure Peter did not know from this is it was a good thing or a bad thing but that Jesus had specifically mentioned Him. This was a token of grace to Peter.

G. [**1 Cor. 15:3-5**]-Jesus appears to Peter alone first before He appears to the disciples. Jesus restores and forgives Peter. Peter gets a

revelation of His love and grace. No longer does Peter focus on how great his love for the Lord is but focuses on the Lord's love for him. The love of Jesus mends Peter's net. The love of Jesus and a revelation of the grace of God mends Peter's broken heart and life.

H. Peter is now ready to be used by the Lord. He knows what he is capable of, what he is not capable of, and what the Lord is capable of.

I. Peter goes fishing. [**John 21:1-8**]

J. He works all night and again comes up with nothing.

K. The Lord appears to them on the shore and tells them to cast on the right side of the boat. They had been fishing on the wrong side!

L. They immediately catch a large catch of fish. The Holy Spirit wants us to know something though. He mentions that Peter's net did not break. His net was strong enough to fulfill the call of God! Peter realized it was Jesus. Instead of asking Jesus to depart from Him, Peter leaped out of the boat towards Jesus. A revelation of the love and grace of God brings you near to God! Peter dragged the net to shore. Peter now was ready to be used to catch men.

III. The lesson of the two nets

- A. We can experience breaking in our life by way of our own mistakes. When we insist on doing things our own way then our net will break.
- B. God wants us to know that no matter how badly you have been broken or hurting, that He is able to restore you to the point to which you are stronger than you were to start with.
- C. God can work with someone who is broken and make them a vessel for His honor. [**Ps. 51:17**]
- D. Jesus came to heal the broken hearted. Jesus wants to mend your life. You must give him all the pieces!
- E. You might have been broken by someone else which was entirely not your fault. Jesus still is there to heal you and make you stronger than ever before and can bring glory to Himself through it.
- F. To receive healing you must admit you are broken and hurting. You must admit your way of dealing with things is broken. You must give up your broken legalistic- I can handle it- mentality. God desires truth in the inward parts.
- G. Submit to God. You do this by entering into faith in His Word. Come to God and draw near to Him.
- H. God did not break Peter. Peter broke Peter. Jesus was there to restore Him. Peter allowed Jesus to restore and heal him. Judas did not.