

# The Ocean of Life – Part 1

Life is a battle. Life is a mission. Life is so serious that people say life is not easy. Life can either grind you down or punish you, depending on how you approach it

e read from Luke 5:1-8 "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 gone out of them, and were washing their nets." They were celebrating their failure.

Verse 3, "And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's," Beloved, there were two ships, but He picked just one and entered Simon's ship. May the

Lord choose you for blessings this year in the name of Jesus.

We continue in verse 3, "and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a drauaht. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the niaht. and have taken nothina:" They had fished and caught nothing. They had wasted time, labor, and sleep, and were going home to meet a hungry family with nothing to present after working all night. This is what is called profitless hard work. It was as if the fish had gone on holiday.

Continuing in verse 5, *"nevertheless at* thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their



partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink." I prophesy a net breaking miracle for you in the name of Jesus. When your blessing becomes explosive you will not be able to handle it alone. Simon knew as a fisherman that it was during the night you could catch fish and this was already daytime, but he let down his net nevertheless because the Lord said so.

So, there was blessing where Simon was, but he had no capacity to get it out. There were fishes in that ocean, but they neglected the net of Peter. Some of the fish may even have been laughing at him. But here was Jesus of Nazareth, at whose voice mountains shook, now speaking.

#### Verse 8, "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

This story looks very simple, but the Lord is trying to teach us so many things here. Primarily, it teaches us the benefit and power of obedience and faith.

Apart from having a very good net, it is crucial to know where and how to throw your net in the ocean of life Obedience and faith that have no respect for impossibility. Faith that defies reasoning and all kinds of information that could be given. This is the kind of faith the Bible is teaching here.

That is the primary lesson, but then the picture also presents to us the life of man. There is something called the ocean of life. At the bank of that large ocean called life, there stands an array of fishermen. Each of us belongs to one class of these fishermen.

The ocean of life is a place of intrigues, calculations. manipulations, chronic dishonesty, a liar's empire, an emptier's paradise, a place where vokes are shared, a place of unexplainable loss, spiritual permutations, deception, a place of power play and power clashes, a place of very strange stagnancy, a place of very strange limitation, a place of opportunity swallowing, destiny robbery, evil maneuvering, profitless sweating, life wastage, and unfulfilled potential.

I travelled somewhere for a crusade, and as we were being led into the airplane, I noticed that the pilot came out and was standing at the door. When I got to the door, the pilot stopped me and called my name. I looked at him. He said, "You don't recognize me anymore?" Then I recognized him. We were in junior school together many years ago. He greeted me enthusiastically and put me

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in a special seat. I was impressed to see someone from my former school as a pilot.

So, he took us on the trip, and I returned. To my shock, about three weeks later, I saw in the newspapers that he had been arrested for trafficking drugs. I was so sad. This is what the ocean of life looks like; we are all basically fishermen trying to fish in that ocean.

Apart from having a very good net, it is crucial to know where and how to throw your net in the ocean of life. Peter had a good net, a good boat, and experience, but you can arrive at a place where your experience fails you. Peter had arrived at the place where the Bible says the foolish shall be used to trouble the wise. 1 Corinthians 1:27a reads, *"but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise"* A place where everything he knew was not working.

This is why life is not calculated by money. Life is not calculated by size. Life is not calculated in your ability to speak well. Life is not calculated on the basis of your knowledge of hygiene. Life is not calculated on the basis of the countries you have visited. Life is not calculated on the basis of the number of visas in your passport. Life is not calculated on the basis of your beauty or handsomeness. For those of you who pride yourselves in your beauty or handsomeness, life is not calculated that way at all. Many years ago, I went to one of universitv Nigeria's campuses to minister. The students came to welcome and greet me. Then the Student Union members brought a lady to me and introduced her as the campus beauty queen of that year. She had been voted as the most beautiful girl on campus. She was indeed very beautiful. So, I said, "I know vou are beautiful, but have vou surrendered your life to Jesus Christ?" Do you know the answer she gave me? She said, "I don't need Jesus. My beauty can get me anything I want." I said. "Okay, time will tell." I did not know that day was her last opportunity to hear the gospel without stress. I completely forgot about her.

Later, I went to Detroit in the United States to minister. Where I was doing my counselling, some people came and said, "G.O. when you are going back to your hotel, there is a lady in one hospital along the way who says she knows you. Could you please just spend one minute to pray for her as you pass by? She is from Nigeria and her situation is very bad." They painted a terrible picture. When it

Life is like a mirror; it never gives back more than what you put into it. Life is a one-way street; there is no turning back. The lesson of life is always repeated until it is learnt looked like I would not go, they started crying. So, I asked them to wait until I finished my counselling and then followed them. They waited for ten hours before we left.

When I got into the hospital ward where this lady was, I did not see a lady. Instead, I saw a person who looked uglier than a gorilla. It was as if you properly disfigured the head of a gorilla and then put it on the neck of a human being. I greeted her and she responded. I said, "I don't know vou." She replied. "You know me sir." I said, "Who are you?" She said, "Do you remember the campus beauty queen you met and asked to surrender her life to Jesus?" I said, "Yes" She replied. "I'm the one" I said. "What happened?" She said a jealous boyfriend had poured acid on her head. Where was the beauty now? It was gone.

At another time, they packaged a former Miss Nigeria to church. She had run mad at the bus stop and was rushed to the church. When she got normal again after prayers, I asked her, "Do you see that your beauty could not deliver you?"

So, life is not calculated according to beauty or handsomeness. Life is not calculated according to vour Life is not calculated possessions. according to your geographical permutations. Life is not calculated according to your parental fame. Life is not calculated according to vour intellectual capabilities. Life is not calculated according to your country of residence. Life is not calculated by your strength. Life is not calculated by your certificates. Life is not calculated based on your height.

Life is a battle. Life is a mission. Life is so serious that people say life is not easy. Life can either grind you down or punish you, depending on how you approach it. Life is like a mirror; it never gives back more than what you put into it. Life is a one-way street; there is no turning back. The lesson of life is always repeated until it is learnt.

Beloved, the truth is that there is no true life until you find out who you are. You are not really living until you know who you really are. You need to know who you are.

People came to John the Baptist and asked, "Are you Elijah?" He replied, "No." "Are you that prophet?" "No." "Are you the Messiah?" "No." "Are you this or that?" "No." Whereas he could have said, "Don't you know who I am? My father is Zechariah the High Priest. My mother is Elizabeth the wife of the High Priest. What kind of question are you asking?" But he understood what they were asking. They were not asking who his parents were. "Who are you?" He said in John 1:23, *"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord."* He knew who he was. Life is sometimes like a foreign language, and all men mispronounce its words. In fact, it appears as if the whole world is a large asylum, and those who are issuing prescriptions are the patients themselves. The thief judges the thief. The judge is also a thief. The policeman catches a thief, but the policeman is also a thief. Life is like a football game with everyone off-side until Jesus Christ discovers them. Life is more of wrestling than dancing. Life is fishing in an ocean. Whether you catch or do not catch is the issue.

At the bank of the large ocean called life, there is an array of different fishermen with their nets, their instruments to catch fish, in their hands. Some catch fish and some do not. Some want to catch fish but catch water snakes. They catch things that destroy them. This year, I pray that wherever you throw your net, you will catch the fish you desire, in the name of Jesus.

The first group of fishermen you find by the ocean of life are the correct fishermen. They have the correct net and are well-positioned in the correct place. They cast their net in that correct place and catch fish and prosper. 90% of success is correct positioning. Unfortunately, the enemy has relocated some people from their place of blessing to a place of dryness.

The enemy looks at a person and says, "I want poverty to end this man. How can I

do it?" The person is supposed to prosper in Lagos, Nigeria. That is where all his angels of blessing have been dispatched to wait for him. The enemy then gives him a US, UK, or Canadian visa and relocates him while the angel waits in Lagos with everything that belongs to him.

But the word of God that never changes says in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Also, in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

So, this person has left where his angels of blessing are, and all his blessings are being forwarded to Lagos, while he is in the United States suffering. I tell such people, "Come back home." But they say, "I can't come home. They will laugh at me." I tell them, "Let them laugh. They will laugh for one year and then leave you alone." We see such people when we travel.

I was in New York, and a Nigerian man came for counselling. He cried bitterly. He wanted to stay in America by all means and wanted to know how he could make it work. He had a wife in Nigeria but had left her and married a German American girl. He told me that one night, he and his American wife were sleeping side by side on the bed. Suddenly, he felt the bed shake a little. He opened his eyes and saw his wife's body rising straight upwards from the bed. He called her name and shouted, "What are you doing?" Then her body came down and she opened her eyes and gave him a stern warning saving, "Be very careful, You are already in trouble. Don't compound your problems." From that time, his life went downhill. He lost his iob. He found no favor anywhere he went. The woman was the only one prospering.

He then said to me, "Man of God, what is that thing I saw that night?" I told him. "That is what is called levitational witchcraft. Gentleman. vou have married an international witch Deliverance may help you but remember you are still going back to that house." This was a person who was supposed to prosper somewhere else but had been relocated. The angels were waiting at his original address but could not find him there.

We will stop here and continue next time when we will cover the other nine types of fishermen you find in the ocean of life.

> Sermon by: Dr. D. K. Olukoya General Overseer (MFM Worldwide)

#### Prayer Points

- 1. Lord Jesus, enter my boat, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Every spirit of profitless hard work assigned against me, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. In this new year, my hands, hear the word of the Lord, prosper by fire, in the name of Jesus.
- Wherever I throw my net this year, I will catch the fish I desire, in the name of Jesus.
- If the enemy has relocated me to the wrong business, place, or job, I receive my deliverance, in the name of Jesus.

[Do not stand in one spot to pray these next three prophetic prayers. Move around as you pray]

- Anointing for forward movement, fall upon my life now, in the name of Jesus.
- My legs hear, the word of the Lord, carry me to my place of destiny, in the name of Jesus.
- Garment of stagnation, garment of shame, I am not your candidate, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
- 9. Bad luck, I am not your candidate, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 10. Every enemy of my happiness, your time is up, die, in the name of Jesus.

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January 2025: Month of The Presence of God – Exodus 33:14

## Weekly Programs

Worship Service: Sundays 9 a.m.Bible Study: Mondays 6:30 p.m.Revival Hour: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.Prayer Vigil: Fridays 11 p.m.Early Morning Fire: Mondays 5:30 a.m. - 6 a.m. Tel: +1 587 405 1252 Code: 5407376#Revival Hour: Mondays 9 p.m. (WAT) – MFM Ministries HQ YouTube Channel

## Monthly Programs

**Power Must Change Hands** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Every Month - 7 a.m. **The God that Doeth Wonders** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Every Month - 11 p.m.

**South Calgary Branch** (*Not currently meeting at this location*): Forest Height Community Hall, 4909 Forego Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 2C4

Airdrie Outreach Center (Not currently meeting at this location):

Genesis Place, The Echo Room, 800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, T4A 2K9

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