

Cast Your Net Again

Inspired by: Matthew 13:47-50, John 21:1-14, John 12:31-32, Psalms 40:1-3, and the painting *Cast Your Net Again* by Daniel Bonnell

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Jesus said:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

It had been a long night of fishing.

The disciples smelled of bait and salt- salt from their sweat, salt from their tears and salt from the sea.

It was a strange combination of perspiration and desperation.

The sun was about to come up, and they hadn't caught a thing.

They were heartbroken- not so much because they hadn't caught anything,

but because they were missing him- their leader, their teacher, their friend.

They were missing Jesus.

He had called them from their nets years before, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

And that's what they did- they dropped their nets, their lives, and followed him.

"Fishers of men," he said...

Now he was gone and all that was left was the nets... empty nets...

"Children, you have no fish, have you?"

No, no fish...

"Cast your net again and you will find some"

So they cast it... they cast it wide, dragged it deep, swept it around the sea

Now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

It is the Lord! It is Jesus!

He sank down to the bottom

Down to the mud and the darkness

Down to the pain and the brokenness

Down to our level

Until he was lifted up- lifted up on a cross

Up went the fists

Up went the curses

Up went the sign

Up went the stares

Down came the hammer

Down came the tears

Down came the blood

Down came the love

Down to our level- buried beneath waves of fear and sin

Buried beneath earth

Jesus said:

*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

It is the Lord! It is Jesus!
He is lifted up from the earth
Up from the grave
Up goes the shout
Up goes the sun with the Son

Cast your net again, my Jesus
Cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea
Draw us up from the bottom with you
Draw us up from the mud and the darkness
From the pain and the brokenness and the selfishness and the loneliness
Draw us up from the fear and the hate and the sin and the death
Draw us up from the bottom with you

Draw us up, Draw us all, my Jesus
Fisher of men and women, sober and addicted, poor and prosperous, infant and aged
Draw us up, Draw us all, my Jesus
Healthy and ill, free and imprisoned, questioning and confident
Draw us up, Draw us all
Fisher of nations and galaxies
Cast your net again into the sea of humanity
Cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

Draw us up,
Draw us in,
We are caught in your saving embrace

"Follow me," says Jesus. "Now, follow me."
Come cast the net
Cast the net again and again and again and we will find some more
Cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea
They will not be able to haul it in because there are so many fish.