

The Draught of Fishes

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TEXT—"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."—Luke 5:4.



The story of the great draught of fishes is original to Luke's gospel, and is one of the most beautiful of its kind in the New Testament. Jesus was by the lake of Gennesaret, sometimes called the Sea of Galilee, and the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God. There were two boats standing by the

lake, but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. He entered into one, which was Simon's, and asked him to thrust out a little from the shore, and he sat down and taught the people. It was when he had left off speaking that he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets." Simon replied that he and his partners had toiled all night, and had taken nothing; but "nevertheless," said he, "at thy word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes, so that their nets brake. And then they beckoned to those who were in the other boat to come and help them, and as a matter of fact both the boats were so filled with fish that they began to sink.

The effect on Peter was an overwhelming conviction of his sinfulness, and he said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Nor was he less astonished or impressed than the others who were with him. But Jesus comforted him by saying: "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." "And when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all, and followed him."

(1.) We learn from this charming incident that Jesus is a good paymaster. He borrowed an empty fishing smack, and repaid the owner of it by filling it with fish! In one of his discourses to his disciples on another occasion he had said, "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time; . . . and in the world to come eternal life." In the present instance he seems to have been showing his disciples, and showing us as well, just what he meant by these words, and giving a demonstration of their truthfulness.

(2.) We learn in the second place that Jesus is a wise counsellor. He told these fishermen just where the fish were, and just where to let down their nets with the most beneficial results. We all need advice every day in our business affairs, our domestic affairs, and the countless problems that are coming up continually in our existence. Some go to clairvoyants, some to palmists and spiritualists for such advice, but others who know him go to the Lord their God. He has said in the 37th Psalm, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; . . . though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down."

(3.) We learn also that Jesus is a great benefactor. They who were simply fishers of fish now became fishers of men. What would Peter have amounted to had he remained in Capernaum? But what did he now become? Not only is his one of the three greatest names in the history of the Christian church, and not only is he now in felicity with his Lord and Master, but that same Lord and Master said to him and his fellow apostles, "Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Is this promise likely to come true? Yes, just as certainly as the Bible is the word of God, and Jesus Christ is the Son of God. But there are corresponding promises for all who know the true God and his Son, Jesus Christ, and who serve and trust him in the life of faith. He lifts the beggar from the dunghill to sit him among princes, an experience that has come to many a child of God in all the centuries long.

But what was the attitude of Peter that brought all this to pass in his case? The answer is simply, yieldedness of will. Christ asked him for his boat and he gave it to him; he told him to launch out into the deep for a draught and he launched out; when he was satisfied with the material result, he was asked to follow Jesus, and he left all and followed him.

To apply this to ourselves, we are to remember that the first step in the yielding of our will is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour and the public confession of him as our Lord. This should be definite, intelligent and irreversible on our part, trusting God to fulfill his word as written in the Gospel of John, 1:12 and 14.

EXPERIMENTS IN PLANTING FRUIT TREES



A Fine Example of Correct Cultivation and Spraying—A Young Bartlett Pear Tree With a Good Yield of Fruit.

An account of a series of experiments in tree planting several years ago, in which I participated, may be of interest.

I may premise by stating the extraordinary fact that apple trees planted badly, according to current rules as to good planting, grew better than those planted in the orthodox way.

Trees with injured roots not trimmed were huddled into small holes, the soil over them being stamped violently and yet they made more growth than trees planted in the usual way with the roots carefully trimmed to cut off broken or bruised portions.

In the following experiments 54 sets of trees, 560 in all, consisting of apples, pears, plums and cherries, were used and the result of the first year of the trials were as astounding as those mentioned above and even still more emphatic.

Two sets of trees, as nearly as possible equal in size and vigor, were tried against each other in each experiment, one set being planted in what is usually regarded as the correct manner, while the trees of the other set were stuck into the holes gate-post fashion and the soil placed over the roots was rammed heavily while it was thoroughly puddled.

Out of ten trials with apple trees those which had been put in roughly and rammed gave greater wood growth in the first season than the others in eight instances, the excess ranging from 8 to 89 per cent and one of the exceptions was carried out in such a light and sandy soil that the effect of ramming was slight and of short duration.

The roots of the rammed trees were necessarily more or less injured by the ramming; there was a time when these trees seemed to be suffering from this treatment, but it was of short duration.

It was concluded that the effect of injury to the roots leads to the formation of a fresh set of roots, while the ramming puts the soil in close contact with the roots and probably increases its capillarity.

As it may be presumed that trees of all kinds and not fruit trees alone would be similarly affected by the methods of planting, the subject is of great importance.

For my part I cannot believe that the ramming did much damage to the roots, for it is inconceivable that badly mashed roots was the result, for experience shows that roots so injured rot off.

In speaking of putting the trees in small holes, this is somewhat after the Stringfellow method where the roots of the trees are trimmed off to mere stumps and the tops much the same and the trees are thrust into the holes and rammed. The chief object of this system is to make the trees send roots deeply into the soil, as a security against drought.

Great success has attended the system of packing the under soil compactly while keeping the top soil in a fine state of looseness by means of frequent cultivation, followed by mulching.

The capillarity of the lower soil is increased by its close packing so that water from below is induced to rise abundantly to the roots of the trees and plants while its evaporation is checked by the fine and loose condition of the surface soil.

and vigorous root system than is produced by only tipping the bruised ends.

The compression of the soil in a wide hole is desirable to an extent when it is not too wet, but planting in a narrow hole where the roots are cramped and curled must be condemned in the light of general experience which proves beyond all question that a wide spread of fibrous roots is conducive to rapid and healthy growth.

What do we find on digging up a dwarfed, dying or otherwise unhealthy bush? Almost, if not invariably, we see roots cramped and twisted and almost devoid of fibers. And why does transplanting young trees and bushes in a nursery induce the production of a mass of fibrous roots, except as a consequence of transference from a stale and compact place, to soil in condition of friable mold?

Almost any practicable degree of pressure over the roots in planting may be advantageous, but it does not follow that solidity to check sideways root growth is also beneficial. If it were so the annual digging, or, rather, forking of fruit plantations would call for condemnation.

Experienced growers of fruit mostly agree that they always find that trees planted well in accordance with what is generally considered the proper methods flourish better than those less carefully planted and this, there is every reason to believe, is the common experience.

I am sure that experiments serve a useful purpose but should strongly recommend growers of fruit not to act on a large scale upon the results of any experiment, and although firmer planting than is usual may be tried, prudence directs that any further testing of the methods described should be limited, for some time to come, at least, to small operations.

WORK ON THE LAWN AND HOME GROUNDS

If Patchy and Bare in Spots Keep on Seeding It the Whole Summer Through.

How are the lawn and home grounds in general? Are they all that should be to make summer home life enjoyable and a pleasing sight to the passer by?

If the lawn is patchy and bare in spots, keep on seeding it the whole summer through; the seed will finally catch and fill up the bare places.

White clover is a fine lawn plant, but many find that it dies out after a few years. White clover, as all the clovers, is a biennial, completely dying after the second year. If the lawn is kept closely clipped, white clover seed should be sown each fall or spring to insure a permanent stand.

The same result may be secured by not mowing in the fall, allowing the plants to blossom and seed.

Clean Dropping Boards.
Unless a dropping board is cleaned regularly and treated for vermin, better not have one in the summer time. They furnish an excellent place for lice to multiply, if neglected.

Power From Windmill.
A Texas farmer has succeeded in so mounting a windmill on a chassis that it will drive a plow or carry its designer along good roads at a fair speed.

ROAD BUILDING

ROADS PAY FOR THEMSELVES

Department of Agriculture Collects Data Showing Land Values Increase With Improvements.

The direct effect that changing bad roads into good roads has upon land value and the general economic welfare of a community is shown in several concrete illustrations gathered by the United States department of agriculture. The department has just issued a statement on the subject, based upon a mass of information gathered by the office of public roads, which is making a special study of the economic effect of road improvement in the country. According to data gathered, where good roads replace bad ones, the values of farm lands bordering on the roads increase to such an extent that the cost of road improvement is equalized, if not exceeded. The general land values, as well as farm values, show marked advances, following the improvement of roads.

Among the illustrations cited by the department are the following:
In Lee county, Virginia, a farmer owned 100 acres between Ben Hur and Jonesville, which he offered to sell for \$1,800. In 1908 this road was improved, and although the farmer fought the improvement, he has since refused \$3,000 for his farm. Along this same road a tract of 188 acres was supposed to have been sold for \$6,000. The purchaser refused the contract, however, and the owner threatened to sue him. After the road improvement, and without any improvement upon the land, the same farm was sold to the original purchaser for \$9,000.

In Jackson county, Alabama, the people voted a bond issue of \$250,000 for road improvement and improved 24 per cent of the roads. The census of 1900 gives the value of all farm lands in Jackson county at \$5.90 per acre. The selling value at that time was from \$6 to \$15 per acre. The census of 1910 places the value of all farm lands in Jackson county at \$9.79 per acre, and the selling price is now \$15 to \$25 per acre. Actual figures of increased value following road improvement are shown.

As the roads in no way affect soil fertility or quality of the farm, advances are due essentially to the decrease in the cost of hauling produce to market or shipping points. Farms are now regarded as plants for the business of farming, and any reduction in their profits through unnecessarily heavy costs for hauling on bad roads naturally reduces their capitalization into values. With reduced costs for hauling profits are increased, with the result that the farm plant shows satisfactory earnings on a higher capital value.

The automobile, also, has begun to be an important factor in increasing rural values where good roads are introduced.

Immigration is particularly marked where road conditions are favorable; in fact, the figures of the department seem to indicate that good roads indirectly increase the demand for rural property; and the price of farm land, like that of any commodity, is ruled by the relation between demand and supply.

Auto and Good Roads.

The auto has come to stay and there is no use fighting against it or trying to penalize the owners for destroying country roads. There is no doubt that an auto will wear out a dirt road quicker than a team carrying 3,000 pounds, and while the latter are penalized in some states, all efforts to give the same medicine to the owners of autos have failed. The only remedy is to build roads that will stand the wear and tear of heavy wagons, autos and anything else and then take the penalty off everything.

Duty of People.

The making of good roads is one of the most important duties of the American people and their prompt repair and careful maintenance is essential. There is probably no subject in which the progressive farmer is more deeply interested than that of having roads connecting him with his market over which he may be able to haul greatest possible load. Good roads, like all other good things, are expensive to build and of too much value to be neglected.

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Time to Drag a Road.

If the traffic is very light, a good time to drag the road is immediately after a rain. However, for ordinary traffic, the best time to drag is when the mud will not stick to the drag but will slide along the edge, the drag taking a slice of earth off the high places and filling the small depressions.

Natural.

"Just look at the figures in the ceilings and walls of this house."
"Well, what of them? Didn't you tell me it was put up by a crack builder?"

In the Bungalow.

"How do you like our kitchenette?"
"Rather small, isn't it?"
"Oh, no; it's plenty large enough. We take our meals out."

FACE BROKE OUT IN PIMPLES

Falls City, Neb.—"My trouble began when I was about sixteen. My face broke out in little pimples at first. They were red and sore and then became like little boils. I picked at my face continually and it made my face red and sore looking and then I would wake up at night and scratch it. It was a source of continual annoyance to me, as my face was always red and spotted and burned all the time.

"I tried _____ and others, but I could find nothing to cure it. I had been troubled about two years before I found Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I sent for a sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment and tried them and I then bought some. I washed my face good with the Cuticura Soap and hot water at night and then applied the Cuticura Ointment. In the morning I washed it off with the Cuticura Soap and hot water. In two days I noticed a decided improvement, while in three weeks the cure was complete." (Signed) Judd Knowles, Jan. 10, 1913. Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston."—Adv.

Hang the Expense.

"Is your new beau good to you, Mame?"
"Good to me? I should say he is. He picks out the ten-cent movies to take me to."

Of Course.

"Aeroplanes are very expensive, are they not?"
"Well, naturally, they come high."

Before the Cousins.

Maud—My grandmother reached her one hundredth birthday.
Ethel—She couldn't have stopped at twenty-three so long as you have.

Hard Game.

Rodd—Don't they have any extra men in the polo team?
Greene—Oh, yes; a few in the hospital.

Water in bluing is adulteration. Glee and water makes liquid blue costly. Buy Red Cross Ball Blue, makes clothes whiter than snow. Adv.

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"Did you see where in some city they have put luminous paint on the park benches to prevent spooning?"

"Luminous paint? That's a bright idea."

5 Improved Iowa farms for sale at auction, Sept. 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10th. 1-10 cash and half the crop yearly until balance is paid, or in ten payments. J. Mulhall, 420 6th Street, Sioux City, Iowa. Adv.

Exactly.

"That was a very warm argument."
"No wonder, with so much hot air in it."

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