

## Fishermen Vs Fish-traders

---Rev. John Mark (Wahab).

The responsibilities of the fishermen and that of the fish-traders are quite different. Fishermen cast nets in lakes, rivers or sea to catch fresh and living fish. And the fish-traders buy those caught-fish and take them to the market for selling to the consumers. In the meantime the fish start dying and become rotten if proper preservatives are not added. In a certain situation the traders of fish pass on dead & rotten fish to the consumers. It is practical matter in particular cases at the fish-market.

When the Lord Jesus Christ asked His disciples to catch fish, He meant to find and bring the lost souls back to the Father in heaven (Mt 4:19). The Word of God is the best net to cast. The Holy Spirit is the perfect agent to keep the souls alive, active and zealous for the glory of the Father in heaven.

The Word of God is like a prescription that a good doctor gives to heal his patients. The prescription must be followed practically, and all other instructions should be adhered to. Usually, the doctors do not ask their patients to memorize the prescription served to all.

Apostle Paul once said that he is not going to build on someone else's foundation (Romans 15:20). Jesus Christ came to this fallen world to seek and save what was lost (Luke 19:10), that means the lost human being that God has created in His own image. In another occasion He told that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Mt 9:37). He demanded fishermen who would be used to catch fish from the field. The dealers are not suitable to cast nets. They have learnt to earn money through the fish-trade. In the fish-market a fish is sold several times from wholesalers to retailers and then to the consumers.

The same trend is also seen in the plea of evangelizing the un-reached world. A certain believer takes baptism many times as he goes from denomination to denomination. Occasionally I witnessed a service to ordain some leaders of a certain Church. They ordained several persons, but all of those persons were the members of different existing, active & living Bodies. To form new Body by hireling people' from several indigenous bodies would not help to increase the total number of the believers in any society or any country.

This system of hiring or stealing fish from someone else's basket does not increase the number of the believers. When some fisherman cast nets in the sea and finds new fishes that would add more fishes to the total member of fishes. Undoubtedly, that sincere endeavor causes joy and glory to both the workers and owners of the field.

The committed workers need not to be worried about the harvest. In the vast field of the Lord of the harvest, there are plenty of crops to be gathered. Stealing fish from other basket cause misunderstandings, enmity and division, that means fighting within the house instead of against the cursed Satan. In the Gospel the believers are asked to submit themselves in the mighty hands of God and to resist the devil.