

Fish Stories

Mark 1:14-20

#4 in our series, "Jesus stories"

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Prayer

And so Lord of all, we ask that you would help us preach Lord Jesus. That our thoughts wouldn't simply wouldn't be our thoughts, that these words wouldn't simply be my words, that our ears wouldn't simply be our ears but that you would help us to hear, and think, and speak, that we would be animated by you Lord Jesus—the Cornerstone. It's in your name that we pray...Amen.

Message

I had a lot of dreams as a little boy. I dreamed of catching the biggest fish; I dreamed of adventure, conquest, and battle; On Halloween I just wanted to be Zorro, mom put a blanket on my back, I got a stick for a sword, and I was Zorro—a warrior—a super hero.

My friends Duncan and Matt used to always play Batman and Robin at recess. My heart so clearly remembers the day when all the boys at lunch chased Matt and Duncan behind the backstop and beat them up (pathetic). One minute they were Batman and Robin, the next minute their faces were shoved in the dirt and streaked with tears. And where was Zorro? Zorro was buried deep in my heart in fear and shame.

I got teased a lot back then. My nickname was "decent" and "pussy," and I was afraid a lot. So I buried Zorro deep in my heart, and I learned I had no business picking up a sword for my dream of being a warrior was pathetic. By Jr. High. My dreams of adventure, conquest and battle had been tamed, but I still couldn't wait to get home and watch reruns of *Star Trek*: "To boldly go where no man had gone before."

I read "Star Trek" has more fan clubs than any show in history...over six-hundred chapters! But have you ever been to a "Star Trek" convention? Middle aged men, with pot bellies, dressed like Klingons and Captain Kirks...trying to live out childhood dreams it's pathetic—a society of pretenders—a kingdom of pretenders.

Sometimes church feels that way. Do you listen to the stories we tell? "We're the army of God." Seems like a rather pathetic army. It's like a fish story we tell ourselves, and Jesus is the biggest fish. "The King of Kings is my best friend." We tell ourselves, "We're the army of God;" "We're the Bride of Christ—"as if God would want to marry us.

I mean, maybe, we're just a bunch of pretenders—actors, and church has become our gig. So we play at church in order to satisfy our own self-centered need for meaning, like middle-aged men all dressed up at a Star Trek convention.

The movie *Galaxy Quest* is all about that whole scene. It's become a Hiett family classic, and if you haven't seen it, you really need to. The movie starts at the Galaxy Quest convention. Tim Allen plays Jason Nesmeth in the movie, and Jason Nesmeth plays commander Taggart in the old cancelled TV show *Galaxy Quest*.

Playing Commander Taggart had been Jason's dream. But now, he and the former cast no longer act on TV but at Galaxy Quest conventions for middle-aged men, lonely women, and teenage nerds dressed like Klingons. They do it because it's a job, but Jason is still hanging on to his dream.

Clip from *Galaxy Quest*

[Standing in the bathroom stall Jason overhears two young men laughing as they stand at the urinals.]

1ST GUY: *You're right. What a FREAK SHOW. This is fricking HILARIOUS.*

2ND GUY: *Yeah, what a bunch of losers. And those poor actors. They've done, like, WHAT for twenty years? I think Fred Kwan did a dog food commercial... Sad.*

1ST GUY: *Did you hear Nesmith up there? That's the saddest. I think he actually gets off on these nerds thinking he's a space commander. It's pathetic. And his friends...*

2ND GUY: *... they HATE him. I know, did you hear them ragging on him?!! "Commander furry!..."*

1ST GUY: *He has no idea that he's a laughingstock... Even to his buddies.*

[After they exit, an obviously disturbed Jason goes back to his table to autograph photographs. He's obviously deflated when a nerdy, young man named Brandon approaches him.]

BRANDON: *In "The Quasar Dilemma," you used the auxiliary of deck b for Gamma override. But online blueprints indicate deck b is independent of the guidance matrix, so we were wondering where the error lies?*

Irritated, JASON responds: *It's a television show. Okay? That's all. It's just a bunch of fake sets, and wooden props, do you understand?*

BRANDON: replies: *Yes but, we were wondering-*

JASON yells: *There IS no quantum flux and there IS no auxiliary... There's no goddamn ship. Do you get it? All eyes are turned on him. The hall has become deathly quiet. Jason rises abruptly and exits through the hall.*

Sorry for the language, but it's a biblical idea that God has damned the ship, subjected creation to futility...so maybe we ought to stop pretending because the dream has died.

Mark 1:14 Jesus has just been baptized and tempted by the devil:

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

A kingdom is a civilization, a city. King Dominion is the dominion of the king. Jesus comes preaching: *"The kingdom is at hand."* "At hand" means at hand, not 2000 years away, but at hand. You can touch it, and it can touch you.

It's not just that the New Jerusalem *will* come down...but like the Revelation says, "*It is coming down.*" (3:12) "*The kingdom is at hand*"...sounds like a fish story.

Mark 1:16-18

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

The Gospel of Luke fills in a few details at this point. Luke shares that Jesus got in Simon's boat and taught the folks on shore from the boat. Then he said to Simon, Luke 5:4 "*Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.*" Simon says, but we fished all night and caught nothing, but at your word we'll let down our nets. They do and catch so many fish the nets start to tear and boat starts to sink.

So you want fish? Jesus can catch fish. More than you can handle! Simon is so blown away by the catch of fish AND so intimidated by the super awesome fishing powers of Jesus, that at first, Simon begs Jesus to leave saying, "*I'm a sinful man.*" He thinks this is more than he can dare to dream. But Jesus tells Simon He'll teach him to fish like Himself. Jesus has a new name for Simon. He calls him "Peter."

Well, for Simon Peter, fishing was much more than just a job. It was his life. It was his dream.

In John 21, after Jesus is crucified, not knowing what to do, Peter goes fishing. He casts his net into the murky depths of the sea, longing for treasure. (Jesus said the Kingdom is like that—a net cast into the depths of the sea. And to the Hebrew mind, the depths of the sea were the dominion of Hell.)

Well back to Mark 1:17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Jesus calls to Peter saying, "*I'll make you a fisher of men.*" Jesus calls us and He knows us, when He calls us. Jesus knows our hopes and dreams. He sees Zorro and Captain Kirk hidden in our hearts. He knows us so...

He doesn't say to Peter, "I'll make you a Bible scholar."

He doesn't say to Paul, "I'll make you a fisherman."

He doesn't even say that to James and John who aren't casting nets...but mending nets with their father.

But we do know James and John will mend the church and John, having left his father, will write most eloquently of the Heavenly Father.

You know Moses and David were shepherds, and God made them shepherds of men. Paul was a Pharisee (a Bible scholar for selfish gain); Jesus turned him into the theologian of grace (a Bible scholar for everyone's gain).

Mary Magdalene was probably a harlot by trade, and Jesus revealed that she was the Bride of Christ.

Maybe you're a businessman or woman, and Jesus doesn't want to turn you into a "fisher of men" but a "steward of His kingdom." If it weren't for some of those, there might not be any boats for fishing.

We're all so worried that Jesus doesn't really know us and so will change us into something we don't want to be because that's what the church often does: Every believer must act the same, speak the same, and dress the same. So we think: "Heaven is like a bad church choir where we're all forced to wear the same ugly robes. Where all the body parts are exactly the same, and it's just not natural."

Well, to Peter the fisherman and Andrew his brother, Jesus said, *"I'll make you become fishers of men."* He didn't say, "Give up all hope of ever fishing again because fishing is evil; it's your old life not new life." Actually, all that fishing must have been preparation for more fishing. So even when Peter was a little boy in Galilee, just pretending to fish (like most little boys do), even then, God was nurturing and refining skills and desires in Peter's heart. So just as Peter pretended to fish as a boy, in preparation for actual fishing as a man, the actual fishing as a man was actually pretending to fish in preparation for actual, real and ultimate fishing for men with Jesus.

It appears there is a striking parallel between the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God. So when the New Jerusalem comes down they still recognize it's Jerusalem, and yet it's not Jerusalem it's totally new, and Jesus says, *"Behold I make all things new."*

A city or kingdom is a society of desires, hopes, and dreams. It's made up of fisherman, shepherds, bakers, and candlestick makers, and so whoever you are (if you belong to Jesus), He's making you new, and He's making His New Kingdom even out of things that are old...like you, out of your old desires, hopes, and dreams.

The Kingdom consists of old lives made new. And that is a bit strange and confusing at times because Jesus does say, *"If you want to be my disciple, pick up a cross,"* that is, "Lose your life."

In Genesis 3 we find that something has gone terribly wrong or is wrong with our lives. In the Garden of Eden (which means "pleasure.") Adam and Eve take the fruit of the tree in order to make themselves like God. They sin and yet, Adam and Eve, made like God, are God's dream and desire. So being "like God" in the "image of God" is a good dream and should be our desire. But Adam and Eve pursued that desire in the wrong way (doubting that God is good, they feared for themselves and seized control of the dream, and the dream died.) They could no longer live the dream, and so they lost Eden.

Many, many years later, the Lord came to Old Abraham and Sarah and He says, *"Sarah will bear a son."* Well, Sarah laughs out loud saying, *"I'm so old! Shall I again have pleasure?"* In Hebrew: *"Shall I again have Eden?"* And God said, *"Why did you laugh?"* Well, Sarah had not only lost Eden, she'd also lost hoping for Eden, desiring Eden; she had despaired of Eden, despaired of her dream. Four thousand years later, we know the dream was Jesus—way more than Sarah even dared to dream on her best day.

I've told you what one friend heard in our service on Sunday. In despair she prayed: "God I'm willing to feel unloved, and she heard the Lord answer "Don't you dare."

To give up on feeling loved is to give up on feeling God. It's giving up hope. We're tempted to think God just wants us to give up hope. Jesus gave up His life, but not His hope for living. Give up your life but not your hope for life. Jesus is The Life.

To just “lose your life” period...no desires, hopes, and dreams is exactly what Satan wants, and yet, if we simply just followed our own desires, hopes, and dreams it would make hell on earth (maybe it already has).

I might hope to be Zorro, but you’d end up with Genghis Khan or Doctor Evil.

I might hope to shepherd the nations but you’d end up with Hitler.

I might hope to feed the sheep, but I’d feed on the sheep.

I might hope for fish but only to feed myself.

Because all my dreams of adventure, conquest, and glory have all been hijacked by me.

They may be wonderful God-given dreams but they’re all flying in the wrong direction, the wrong way.

And they’re all about to crash into the idol of me in the kingdom of me.

Beautiful dreams hijacked by me...but maybe they can be hijacked once again, by Another... It’s a beautiful dream to be made in the “image of God.” Yet, it’s hell once it’s been hijacked by me, maybe it can be hijacked by Another Way...by *“The Way, The Truth and The Life.”* Maybe our empty dreams can be filled with new meaning. Maybe our self-centered desires can be baptized and redeemed. You know, Jesus didn’t simply say, *“Lose your life.”* He said, *“Lose your life for my sake and you will find it.”*

It struck me, a while ago, that what I find is *“it.”* Not another life...but *“it”* (not Billy Graham’s life...but my life). In order to find it, I must be able to recognize it so for all eternity I can be grateful for it and enjoy it saying, “Here it is...my life-what I, uniquely I, have always wanted—my Eden. I was lost but now, I’m found.”

So Jesus said, *“Simon Peter (fisherman) I’ll make you a fisher of men. Follow me.”* But to follow Jesus, Peter must drop his nets. He must drop his way of fulfilling his own desires. He must stop fishing to really fish. He must surrender his dream to live his dream.

Why do we have to stop fishing in order to fish?

Why do we have to surrender our desires in order to receive our desires?

And why do we have to fish in Galilee in the first place?

Why are we born in Old Jerusalem in the first place?

Why must we live in this world of futility at all?

God has us fish and then takes the fish away.

God has us build a house and then it burns down.

God has us marry a lover and then she cheats and leaves.

God has us live but everything dies.

He *“giveth and he taketh away,”* why?

“Abraham you will be the father of nations,” and then his wife Sarah doesn’t get pregnant until he’s one-hundred years old. Moses is totally set up to deliver Israel from bondage, then God has him herd sheep in the wilderness, until he’s ready for the nursing home. *“David you will be king of Israel,”* That’s why you must live in this cave. God has them build Jerusalem, then arranges for its destruction according to plan. He *“giveth and he taketh away,”* Why? “Fish Peter...but to really fish...stop fishing.” It’s like He’s teasing us.

Is God teasing us? Is He a tease?

Well, you know...I love it when my wife’s a tease. She doesn’t tease like the kids at school teased. They intended their teasing for evil, my wife intended it for good! I mean, we’ll go on a date and she’ll wear something sexy, and I’ll want to grab her right then and there, but she won’t let me. She’s teasing

me so that by the end of the night a small little passion has turned into a raging furnace of desire. Perhaps God is teasing us like that. And eternity is our wedding night.

Remember the New Jerusalem is a Bride prepared for her groom. Maybe this world is full of appetizers in preparation for the Great Banquet. You know the purpose of appetizers is to make you more hungry to inflame your desire, but if you stuff yourself on appetizers, addicted to the appetizers, well...you can't enjoy the meal.

This world is full of appetizers, but God only lets us have a few and for a time. Perhaps God is nurturing a longing within us: He *"giveth and he taketh away."* to build a hunger so we might enjoy the banquet for all eternity.

Philemon 1:6 (A verse God gave my wife when we were separated) *"Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while—that you might have him back forever."*

Perhaps this is why loved ones die—that we might have them back forever. Perhaps this is why Jesus died. He *"gives and takes away"* to make us hunger and thirst for righteousness, for love, for life, for Him.

And so the danger is that our growing desires will scare us, and we'll give up the quest, give up hope. The danger is that I'll say to my bride: "I can't take this any longer. I'm gonna go watch football and drink beer till I forget."

The danger is that I'll say to the host: "I'm not waiting for the Great Banquet; I'm going to Mc Donald's to satiate my desire on the dollar menu.

The danger is that I'll give in to despair or addiction, that I'll try to satiate my desire for adventure on Vail Mountain rather than Mount Zion...my desire for conquest on Wall Street rather than golden streets, my desire for warfare with the Marines rather than the Kingdom of God.

The danger is that I'll seize control of all those dreams and won't truly live any of those dreams.

Think about it: If you seize control of a dream, you're no longer actually dreaming...right? You're awake...or more asleep...depending on what you think is real.

What's real?

The danger is that Peter will give up hope and settle for fishing in Galilee because that's a dream he can control, but when you control a dream, the dream dies.

Well, really fishing for men, with Jesus in His Kingdom, may be more than Peter dares to dream.

But maybe Peter hasn't been dreaming his own dream. Maybe Peter isn't the dreamer but the dream. Whoa! I know that's a head trip, so back to this question: "What should I do with my dreams?"

In the movie *Galaxy Quest*, Jason Nesmeth despairs of his dreams. He leaves the convention and tries to drown his hopes in a bottle of whiskey. In the morning, real space aliens show up at his back door. They are Thermians from the Clatun Nebula, and for decades they've been receiving transmissions of *Galaxy Quest* reruns in deep space.

They think they are “historical documents,” and they are so impressed with the courage, honor, and friendship of the Galaxy Quest crew they’ve proceeded to build an entire civilization based on the Galaxy Quest transmissions, a kingdom (entirely real and exactly parallel) to the false reality on earth. On TB.

Well, the Thermians are being destroyed by the Evil Emperor Sarris. In desperation, they’ve come to earth in hope that the brave commander Taggart and his crew can save their people from destruction. They don’t know Commander Taggart and his crew are pretenders. And Commander Taggart, that is Jason, doesn’t know they’re real Thermians. He thinks they’re middle-aged groupies, come to pick him up for a gig that he’d forgotten because he was hung over.

Well, he falls asleep before he’s beamed up into space. So now he wakes up in the Thermian spaceship NSEA Protector thinking it’s just a gig. (Kind of like when we play church assuming it’s all just make believe.

Clip from *Galaxy Quest*

[A door slides open and Jason and the others enter the command deck....It's straight out of the TV show. Blinking lights, consoles, the cool old tech displays... but a bit dark. Jason looks around, genuinely impressed, still wearing his glasses.]

JASON: *Not bad. Usually it's painted cardboard boxes in a garage.*

[They lead him to the Commander's chair. He sits.]

TEB: *Sir, we apologize for operating in low power mode, but we are experiencing a reflective flux field this close to the galactic axis.*

JASON: *No problem. Does this thing have a cup holder?*

NAVIGATOR: *We're approaching in five ticks, sir. Command to slow?*

JASON: *Sure, set the screen saver on two. (The navigator looks confused.) Sorry. Sorry. Didn't mean to break the mood. Slow to Mark 2, lieutenant.*

SARRIS: *I see fear. That is expected. (His voice resonates.) Ah, they bring a new Commander... Such a cowardly species. Not even your own kind... No matter. Here are my demands, and I would suggest, Commander, that you think well before speaking a word, because these negotiations are... tender.. and if I do not like what I hear there will be blood and pain as you cannot imagine...*

[...Jason takes a sip of coke and checks his watch.]

SARRIS: *First I require the Omega 13. Second, I will require a technician...*

Clip from *Galaxy Quest* Continued..

JASON: (blasé, like a laundry list) *Okey dokey, let's fire blue particle cannons full. Fire red particle cannons full. Fire gannet magnets left and right. Fire pulse catapults from all chutes. And throw this thing at him too, killer.*

[He hands the gunner the empty coke can, then before even waiting for the weapons to reach their target... he exits!]

[HALLWAY—Jason emerges and looks both ways trying to get his bearings. Several of the aliens chase after him as he enters the corridor, exchanging stunned glances, trying to absorb the magnitude of what just happened.]

MATHESAR: *Commander?... Where are you... going?*

JASON: *Home.*

MATHESAR: *You... You mean Earth?*

JASON: *Yeah. "Earth." Time to get back to "Earth," kids.*

[He turns a corner. Jason is oblivious to the muffled sounds of explosions, traces of the demolition going on outside.]

MATHESAR: *But Commander... The negotiation... You... You... You fired on him. ..*

JASON: *Right. Long live... What's your planet?*

MATHESAR: *Theramin.*

JASON: *Long live Theramini. Take a left here?*

MATHESAR: *But what if Sarris survives?*

JASON: *Oh, I don't think so. I gave him both barrels.*

MATHESAR: *He has a very powerful ship. Perhaps you would like to wait to see the results of-*

JASON: *I would but I am REALLY running late and the 134's a parking lot after 2:00. But listen, the guy gives you any more trouble, just give a call...Mathesar produces a walkie-talkie device for Jason.*

MATHESAR: *An interstellar vox.*

JASON: *Thanks.Mathesar (looks him in the eye). A tear starts down his cheek. He hugs Jason, then shakes his hand sincerely.*

MATHESAR: *How can we thank you, Commander. You- You have saved our people.*

JASON: *It was a lot of fun. You kids are great.*

[The others shake his hand, thanking him as they enter the Interstellar Pod Room, a room with a very high circular ceiling. The aliens continue thanking Jason as they lead him to the center of the room. Jason realizes he's left all alone in this strange room with no visible doors. Jason is suddenly aware that he is standing on a glowing red disk.]

JASON: *Wait. Where's the limo?*

[Suddenly a clear cylinder rises from the disk and conforms around him, encasing him in a clear bullet shaped container. There is only an instant to register surprise as the ceiling divides and an awe-inducing rotating star field is revealed... The walls pull back around him. Jason finds himself surrounded by the infinite vastness of space. And his face is a mask of horror in the split instant Jason in his pod is rocketed forward into space. We pull back slowly from the iris of Jason's eye. He is now standing on the red disk in the middle of his own back yard. He stands there in shock, teeth chattering, shivering in wave after wave from the incomprehension of what he's just experienced, unable to move from the spot, paralyzed by fear.]

If you ever want to understand the biblical doctrine of sanctification, just watch *Galaxy Quest* 10 times. If you saw the movie...you know...Jason convinces the crew to go back with him. But when they find out that it's not just a gig they're terrified and want to go back to doing gigs in Van Nuys.

It's one thing to pretend "to boldly go where no man has gone before," battle evil dragon lords, and save entire worlds, but it's another thing to actually live the dream. And yet, they begin to live the dream, not because they need the cash or an ego boost, but because they begin to love the Thermians who are suffering at the hands of the evil dragon lords. They realize that their dreams are not simply their own. And they realize their dreams are not simply about themselves. And in this way, their dreams are tested and tried, and baptized in the fire of affliction, in the service of love.

At one point, Evil Sarris has sifted Jason like wheat, just as Satan sifted Peter. In despair, Jason confesses that he's just a pretender—faking the dream...not living the dream, but the Thermians are convinced "He is more than he knows." And of course, "He *is* more than he knows." He is not the author of his own story. He's a character in a movie about a TV show. So even his dreams are actually the author's dreams.

Did you know that you are more than you know?
Maybe your dreams are actually your Author's dreams.
You don't dream God.
God is dreaming you.
And ultimately all of your dreams are His dreams.

So don't control the dream, but don't give up on the dream either.
Surrender the dream...
So He can full fill the dream AND you can live the dream.

See? Jesus is convinced that you are "more than you know." Jesus says, "*You're a chosen race a royal priesthood, a holy nation*" "You are God's own people, the army of God, His beautiful Bride, His very dwelling, so there is an immeasurable greatness of power in you, and when you love...you are born of God and know God. You are His very own body, and each one of you is unique.

So Jesus says, "Peter, follow me, and I'll make you a fisher of men— drop this gig and I'll show you what fishing's all about." Peter goes on a journey with Jesus. When he's just about to give up on the dream, Jesus has him get money out of the mouth of a fish, or feed a fish banquet to 5,000, or come

walking to him on the sea. After three years, the dream has grown and then Satan sifts Peter like wheat. Peter fails miserably, then Jesus dies, and Peter's dream dies. He must've thought: "It was just my own pathetic dreams."

In a few days he's back to fishing in Galilee, and he can't even catch on lousy fish. Resurrected Jesus appears on the shore and yells, "Try the other side of the boat." One hundred fifty-three fish swim into the net. Peter leaves the fish and swims to Jesus, and three times Jesus asks him: "*Do you love me more than these?*" (And I think He means these fish.)

Peter says, "Yes." He doesn't use Jesus to catch fish for himself, he fishes because he dreams of Jesus, who is love in flesh, and Peter becomes love in flesh—Christ's body, God's dream.

In a few weeks, baptized in the Spirit, he'll catch three thousand men on Pentecost. And you see, that was just a taste of the dream our Lord dreamed for Peter. I think *you* are actually one of the fish Peter caught. I don't think any of us sees the dream entirely fulfilled in our lifetime. When we dream a good dream, we're dreaming of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is at hand and *coming* down.

In Ezekiel 47, there's this amazing prophecy that one day the river of life will flow from Mount Zion, where Christ was crucified, down the Kidron Valley, past the Valley of Gehenna and east, to the Sea of Arabah (The Dead Sea). It's the lowest place on earth and in it...nothing can live. It's a picture of Hell—the Abyss in the depths of that sea. One day, the River of Life will fill it with Life.

Ezekiel 47:10 "*Fishermen will stand beside the sea,*" that sea, "*and its fish will be a multitude of kinds.*" I don't know exactly what that means. But if you dream about fishing, I think you dream about Heaven because they fish in Heaven. And you dream about pulling Life up from the depths of Hell. I'm just saying, "You and your dreams are "far more than you know."

In *Galaxy Quest*, The crew saves the Thermions but not because it's a gig but because they love the Thermians. Love makes them "more than they know," Love knew who they were all along. They land the space ship back at the Galaxy Quest convention, but they're no longer "pretenders," they're the real deal—they've lived the dream.

So what am I saying?

Don't be afraid of your desires, hopes, and dreams;

They're not pathetic, they're actually not yours even if you've seized control.

Don't repress them in fear;

And don't think you can fulfill them in your own strength.

You must surrender them and follow Jesus.

He will baptize your desires with fire and make them purer and stronger than you have dreamed.

He takes your desire for intimacy and transforms it from lust into love.

He takes your dream of adventure and transforms it from pride into hope.

He takes your desire for riches and transforms it from greed into faith.

And faith, hope, and love abide.

He takes your dreams and purifies them and enlarges them, and then fills them with Himself.

He takes your life and gives you back your life...filled with His Life.

All we truly desire...is Him...for He is "The Life."

We dream of Him...for He is dreaming of us...dreaming of Him.

Peter dreamed of catching fish because Jesus was catching Peter. He hooked him that day on the Sea of Galilee, and all his life, Jesus was reeling him in. I know it sounds preposterous, but Peter was Jesus' big fish, Jesus' fish story, and all Jesus' stories are true!

For years in worship, I kept having this picture of myself picking up a huge battle damaged sword. And people who pray for me had dreams and visions of me with a sword. Recently, a friend said, "Peter, Jesus told me to give you this sword." [Peter picks up a sword and shows it to the congregation.] And I must say, to me, at times it seems pathetic. But I think maybe Jesus is calling to Zorro saying, "Hey your dreams were my dreams. Pick up that sword." It seems pathetic to me because at one time, I was a big deal in Galilee. I had publishers lined up, and I was being asked to speak around the country. I thought I was really swingin' the sword and catchin' the fish.

But I think, Jesus said, "Follow Me. You've been catching fish for yourself Peter. Now you're going to catch fish for Me. And you won't believe the places we'll go fishing. Why...even the gates of Hell won't prevail against us." It seems pathetic, but He's not my dream; I'm His dream, and so are you.

Don't give up on your dreams...

But surrender your dreams...

Because you are His dream!

Communion

And on the night he was betrayed He took bread, and broke it saying, "*This is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.*" And He took the cup saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink of it all of you; do this all of you in remembrance of me.*" And scripture tells us: "*The life is in the blood.*"

He's talking to you: Zorro, Batman and Robin, and Cinderella, and Princess Bride, Captain Kirk and Lieutenant Uhura. He's calling to you, come to the table, and bring your empty dreams. He'd like to fill them with His Life, and He is love. See you are actually not the dreamer; you're His dream. Let Him fill your dreams with His life and His love. In His name, let's worship!

[Several worship songs are sung.]

Clip from *Galaxy Quest*

[We see Brandon, from the Galaxy Quest Convention, sitting in his bedroom. Brandon looks at his model with a sigh. Suddenly he hears a familiar tone. He cocks his head and turns to... the Interstellar Vox sitting on his table. He starts to turn away, but it beeps again. Slowly he reaches out, takes it in his hand and flips the switch. We hear Jason's voice.]

JASON: *Hello?... Hello is anyone there?...*

[Brandon stares at the thing, then looks around his room for signs of a practical joke. He speaks into it quietly.]

BRANDON: *... Hello?*

JASON, holding his Vox, nods to Gwen... *"Got him."*

JASON: *This Is Jason Nesmith. I play Commander Peter Quincy Taggart of the USEA Protector.*

[BRANDON'S ROOM—Brandon stares at the vox for a very long moment.]

BRANDON: *... Yes?*

JASON: *We accidentally traded Vox units when we bumped into each other on Saturday.*

BRANDON: *Oh... Oh, I see. Oh.*

JASON: *What's your name, son?*

BRANDON: *Brandon.*

JASON: *Brandon, I remember you from the convention, right?... You had a lot of little technical observations about the ship, and I spoke sharply to you...*

BRANDON: *Yes, I know, and I want you to know I thought about what you said... I know you meant it constructively but...*

JASON: *It's okay. Listen-*

BRANDON: *... But I want you to know that I am not a complete braincase, okay? I understand completely that it's just a TV show. There is no ship, there is no Beryllium Sphere, no digital conveyor... I mean, obviously it's all just a-*

JASON: *It's real, Brandon. All of it, It's real.*

BRANDON (no hesitation): *I knew it!... I KNEW it!...*

JASON: *Brandon, the crew and I are in a lot of trouble, and we need your help.*

You're not a "brain case." The Kingdom of Heaven really is at hand. So, if you haven't done it already, let's surrender our dreams so we can live the dream. You're God's dream.

Would you just close your eyes right now because while I was preaching, you were thinking of dreams, and you might have been thinking, "Oh yeah, that dream is dead." Well, ultimately you're dreaming of Jesus, and even though He dies, yet shall He live. And He is alive; it's an indestructible life.

So what are your dreams?

Do you dream of rest? He's your rest.

Do you dream of purpose? He's the meaning.

Do you dream of conquest? He's the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He'd like you to ride along with Him.

See, I don't think you can really even dream a dream unless, at its core, it's a dream that He's given you. So right now think of your dream, even if you think it's dead ...even though you might have given up hope. Just give it to Him; surrender it and say, "Jesus here's my dream." In that way you can live the dream because He's the dreamer, and you're the dream, and His life is now your life.

Even the point of death is just the beginning of the dream. And all of your dreams in this fallen world, all of your hopes, your desires, I don't think they're wasted. Saint Paul said, "*Hope will not disappoint us.*" Your soul is being stretched; your longings are being nurtured; you're growing hungrier and hungrier for the Kingdom of God that you might forever rejoice in the love of your Lord—your Savior—your Redeemer and you might even live as His body in this world.

So, have you given Him your dreams? Now follow Him, just follow Him. Amen.

And now, I know there's been an over abundance of movie clips but one day you *will* see something just like this.

Clip from *Galaxy Quest*

[Brandon's parents are sitting on their sofa reading newspapers with the TV playing in the background. "*It's the third day of the Galaxy Quest Conference. Jason Nasmath and his entire crew are no shows at the big event, much to the disappointment of all these fans.*"]

Brandon: *I'll be back soon!*

Brandon's mom: *Brandon wait! Where are you going to go with all those fireworks?*

Brandon: *The protector got super accelerated at a black hole, and it just nailed the atmosphere at Mark 15, which you guys know is pretty unstable, obviously, so we're gonna help radio the guy for security and we're gonna use these roman candles for visual confirmation.*

Brandon's mom: *Alright, dinner's at 7:00*

[Both parents look at each other with concerned looks.]

Brandon's mom: *Well, at least he's outside!*

Clip from *Galaxy Quest* Continued..

[We see a space ship racing through the atmosphere. Brandon is waving his radio and the space ship prepares for landing, crashes through a highway and right into the Galaxy Quest convention. Everyone at the convention watches intently. The doors open and a crew member staggers out. Cheering begins...the host of the event introduces the crew member: *"Tommy Weber, Hi Tommy."* Jason exits the sheet. .The crowd goes wild. An evil character exits the ship. Jason, the commander of the ship shoots him with a laser gun. There is a large flash of life. The evil character disappears with a puff of smoke. The crowd erupts into joyous applause.]

Benediction

By way of benediction, Mark 1:15, this is what Jesus came preaching: *"Repent and believe the gospel."* It's good news, it's a good story and it's your story. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.