

Many job interviews and college applications ask who the applicant's role models have been. This says many things about the person including something about his or her values and priorities in life. For us, we could do no better than emulating God. As long as we don't give ourselves airs and make ourselves equal with God, there is no one better for a Christian to emulate or even imitate than God. Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is like a fishing net that catches all manner of creatures and when the catch is sorted, the good is kept and the bad is thrown out. Many aspects of our lives could be likened to that fishing net like all the information we hear or read, or all the interactions we have with people, or all the things that happen to us or around us throughout any given week. As with God and humanity, as with a fisherman and his catch, as with us and the events of our week, the real gain or loss comes when we sort out what was good and worth keeping from what was not.

If a fisherman were to haul up a lionfish and a flounder in his nets, the lionfish with its broad fanning fins might seem more interesting than the odd looking and somewhat ugly flounder, but the lionfish has deadly venom in its spines and it isn't any good to eat, while the flounder makes a delicious meal. Just as a fisherman needs to know which fish are profitable and which aren't, we too need to know which information, which people and which happenings will profit us toward the Kingdom and which will not. Not that everything that happens in our lives is ultimately beneficial nor does it need to be. A small crab caught in the net isn't profitable, but watching it for a time before throwing back into the ocean won't harm it or us. The same is true with some leisure and recreation for us.

However, there are many different kinds of edible fish and there are many different ways God might choose to give us something that is profitable toward His Kingdom. We need to have our spiritual senses honed sharp enough to know when we've found that pearl of great price, or when what appears to be a treasure of gold is only fool's gold. We could spend a great deal of time pouring over weighty tracks to hone our spiritual senses, or we could just pray like Solomon did. Our Father is a generous father who wants to give his children good gifts. If we ask in the right way and for the right reasons, God is likely to help us gain the wisdom that will benefit us toward His Kingdom. God wants us to find His Kingdom. That's why it isn't very well hidden. As Jesus said, the Kingdom is already among us. All we need to do is to open lives to God, look around with spiritual eyes and search with the right attitude in our hearts and we will find the Kingdom, that treasure buried in a field. When we find that treasure, when we decide to turn toward God, when we begin to look at life as God does, God also gains a treasure buried in a field. We are that treasures—a treasure so precious to God that His son gave his life that our Father might possess us for all eternity.