

There are two seas in the Holy Land.

One is fresh and fish are in it; splashes of green fill its banks; trees stretch out their branches and the tree roots dig deep within the soil.

Along the shore, the children play, as children played when Jesus was there. Jesus could look across its glittering surface when he spoke his parables. And on a rolling plain not far away, He fed five thousand people. The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills.

But the River Jordan then flows on south into another sea.

Here there is no splash of fish, no song of the birds, no fluttering of the leaves because there are no trees. The air hangs heavy above its water and neither man, nor beast will drink.

What makes the difference in the two seas? It is not the River Jordan. The River Jordan empties the same cool water into both seas. It is not the soil, nor the country around it.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives water but does not keep the water of the River Jordan. For every drop that flows into the Sea of Galilee, another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea, however, is different; it hoards the water that it receives from the River Jordan. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives; the other sea gives nothing: it is called the Dead Sea.

Just as there are two different seas in Galilee, so, too, are there two kinds of people in the world. Which type of person are YOU: do you receive AND GIVE or do you simply receive all the time. Just as biology tells us that only receiving leads to death, so, too, spiritual biology tells us that being selfish leads to spiritual death. Choose life, not death. Choose to give, not just take.