



Your Weekly Reaching New People Newsletter

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Which Side of the Boat are you fishing on?

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At both the beginning of Jesus' ministry (Luke Chapter 5) and at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry (John 21), He gives fishing instructions to Peter. In both cases, Peter had fished all night and caught nothing. But then Jesus says, "Cast your net on the other side of the boat" and suddenly the nets were full.

It's my sense that many of us in the church have been fishing from the wrong side of the boat for a long time. Some of the "wrong side" practices have included:

- **Putting a greeter at the door and waiting for people to come to us.**
- **Mistakenly believing that everyone has a church background just like us.**
- **Focusing all of our time on buildings, budgets and members personal needs and tastes.**

And just like Peter, we haven't caught much, as evidenced by the fact that 85-90% of churches are in decline.

And just like 2000 years ago, Jesus is calling us to "cast the net" on the other side of the boat. This "casting" might look like:

- **Focusing on the needs of those not yet in our churches.**
- **Being creative in connecting with people in our neighborhoods.**
- **Joyfully sharing the good news and not worrying that we will sound like some sort of fanatic.**
- **Having, as Paul said, the "aroma of Christ" in all that we do.**

In Matthew 4, Jesus told his disciples that there were to catch men and women with the Good News. We are called to do the same today.

Which side of the boat are you fishing on?

May God's Spirit catch you, hook, line and sinker and may that same Spirit teach you how to fish.

Blessings,

Paul

