

Sometimes we have to forsake our own nets.

John 21:5-6

⁵Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. ⁶And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

It is really sad to see the church using the same methods they have always used. Sometimes those same methods work **“if you’re in the same field you always have been.”**

When you cast the same net into the same place over and over and catch nothing you may want to try something new. I have seen churches hold singings to keep the doors open and it work, yet some churches have shut down in a young community with younger people while trying to hold an old time gospel blue grass meeting.

Now *if* you are in the country where everyone lives on bluegrass music and watermelon then by all means hold a watermelon bluegrass festival to draw in the crowd and then start preaching between songs!

But if you try that in the city or in a community that may at one time have been into that but has changed you may as well just setup a couple of chairs for yourself and family... **because no one else is on the way!**

Remember this verse?

Jude 1:22-23

²²And of some have compassion, making a difference: ²³And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Not every person responds to the same methods. Jesus always knew who He spoke with. When He was around fishermen He talked about fish. When He was around farmers He spoke about farming. If we hope to reach our community we need to know who our community is and maybe throw out some of our own preferences to reach them! You may like the opera and think it would be a great outreach event for your church to put on an opera... **BUT YOU LIVE IN THE BLUEGRASS CITY OF THE WORLD!!!**

So we need to know what works and with whom.

Jesus knows where the fish are and what type of bait to use.

Did you know that most of the younger people use the internet for everything? My wife and I check out churches online before we visit. If you don't have a [church web site](#) we may think twice about showing up! So do you want to grow your youth programs for the next generation of the church? You may want to use the net... internet... sorry for the bad joke.

Until we meet people where they are we will never see the nets overflowing. I challenge your church to really take a look around your community and find out where the fish are. Then find out what type of fish they are.

Remember in the last lesson ([Click Here To View Past Lesson](#)) I said some are fish while others are wheat or sheep? Each one can be caught by individual people. **But if you have a boatload of fishermen out on the fields of sheep casting out a line you're not going to catch anything!**

Everyone is called to a different field and some people may be called into many. Just remember that you can't harvest wheat with a net and you can't catch fish with a plow. You may need to vary your approach. The church as a group can go after the schools of fish. Meanwhile your members can harvest the wheat one sheave at a time.

Make sure you're provided with and providing your members with all the tools needed. I would recommend [church business cards](#) for individual members and a website for your church to catch those younger fish. Brochures and flyers are a great way to get a community talking if you have the people willing to pass them out. By the way, I am offering these all together on special right now at my [Church Advertising Bundle](#) page.

Of course none of this matters if your visitors don't stay...I will talk about that in the next article.