



## A Faith Worth Sharing A World Worth Winning

### What does it mean to be 'Fishers of Men?'

#### 1. Research Statistics

Campus Crusade, Billy Graham, Others

#### 2. Two things that Jesus said about sharing our faith!

*Matt 4:18-22 and Matt 28:16-20*

How did the disciples do with the Great Commission?

#### 3. Let's Talk About Fishing

##### a. Bring a pole or net? *Matt 4:18*

'Fishers of men' *This was NET FISHING.*

Pole fishing verses net fishing:

A net implies a larger vision than a pole.

#### What is the vision for your net?

##### b. How do we become fishers of men? *Matt 4:19*

We do not become 'fishers of men' we  
are MADE fishers of men.

The greatest ability is availability!

##### c. How does Jesus make us fishers of men? *Acts 1:8*

*NASB: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

A Faith Worth Sharing: Introduction Matt 4:19 and Matt 28:19

### What does it mean to be 'fishers of men?'

**1. Research Statistics** Before we look at these statistics, remember that the Great Commission is not simply evangelism, but making disciples; reaching people, pulling them into the church, and building them up in Christ to become reproductive believers.

(1) **Campus Crusade**--Research conducted by The Institute for American Church Growth shows that of the hundreds of thousands of so called "decisions" from the Here's Life emphasis, 97 out of every 100 were never incorporated into a church. Somewhere they were lost by the wayside.

(2) **Billy Graham Crusade** Statistics taken in connection with the Billy Graham Crusade in Seattle back in 1976 are also very enlightening. Some 434,100 persons passed through the gate to attend the crusade and 18,136 walked down the aisle. Of the 18,136, 53.7% went forward for rededication, not salvation. 30.6% went forward for conversion, and 15.7% was unknown as to the purpose. But only 7% of those who went forward for conversion, had become associated with a church when the research was done several years later.

(3) **Institute for American Church Growth** Research from a questionnaire taken by The Institute for American Church Growth showed that when over 4000 people in 35 states and three countries were asked why they became part of a local church, 75% to 90% responded that friends and relatives were the "door of entrance." The conclusion is clear ... churches encouraging and equipping their members to reach the existing webs of friends and relatives, and then building them into the fellowship of the local church will experience the greatest results for their time and effort.

Over **14,000 lay people have been asked the question:** "What or who was responsible for you coming to Christ and your church?" One of eight responses were given, but the key issue is what percentage of people came to Christ and the church through each category listed. Here are the results.

Special Need	1-2%
Walk-in	2-3%
Pastor	5-6%
Visitation	1-2%
Sunday School	4-5%
Evangelistic Crusade	1/2 of 1%
Church Program	2-3%
Friend/Relative	75-90%

**How do these stats fit with you?**

**Do they seem right?**

**What's wrong with the picture?**

## 2. Two things that Jesus said about sharing our faith!

Matt 4:18-22 and Matt 28:16-20

How did the disciples do with the Great Commission?

More on that in another lesson—but not so good—it involved going to the Gentiles and it took the death of Stephen to get the word out of Jerusalem and moving to the non-Jewish world.

## 3. Lets Talk About Fishing

**a. Bring a pole or net? Matt 4:18** The image of ‘fishers of men’ may be one of the most misunderstood or at least misused biblical analogies around. I’ve seen many witnessing and evangelism seminars use the image of guy in a boat with a poll and line over the water.

*This was NET FISHING.*

The only time that Jesus ever mentioned poll/line fishing was in **Matt 17:27** regarding taxes:

"However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

Pole fishing—you bait the hook or put lure on a line and cast it into the waters and wait for a fish to take a bite. The emphasis is on the bait and the fisherman mostly sits around until there is a bite.

Net fishing—this is what my son does; here you go find the fish and cast your net and attempt to bring in a large number. The emphasis here is on the skill of the fisherman to find the fish, cast the net—it’s very labor intensive.

### 1a. What is the implication of net verses pole fishing?

The net implies a larger vision than a poll. If I am going poll fishing, even on a good day I may be able catch 10-20 or more fish. But with a net the possibility could be in the hundreds—or even thousands.

**What is the vision for your net? *This is what we will focus on over the next lessons.***

### b. How do we become fishers of men? **Matt 4:19**

We do not become a fishers of men we are MADE fishers of men.

### C. How does Jesus make us fishers of men?

**Matt 28:18-20**

**Acts 1:8**

Act 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."