

**SOS: God's Love Boat, Here to Serve**

Matthew 20:20-28

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Memory verse:

***“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***

—Matthew 20:28

Ichthus is the Greek word for fish.

I- Iota, Ἰησοῦς **Jesus**X-Chi, χριστός **Christ**TH-Theta, θεός **God**Y-epsilon, Υἱός (Y is a capital u) **Son**S-Sigma, Σωτήρ **Savior**

What is the future for the Church in America? In Johnstown? For Oakland?

**1. Church's Future**

***“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*** —Luke 18:8

In the most recent Barna ARIS, American Religious Interest survey (2008)  
The largest group changing religious status were **those abandoning all religion.**

**14.3 million in 1990****32.2 million in 2008****Ages 18-29 in Mainline Christian denominations 10—12%.****Ages 18-29 in Islam and Buddhism 56—58%**

## 2. Future Options—Death.

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days...having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.* —2 Timothy 3:1, 5

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.” —John Wesley

## 3. Future Option—Death: Martydom

*“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria...Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”* —Acts 8:1, 4

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” —Tertullian

## 4. Future Option—Service

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* —Matthew 20:28

“What’s your real number?”  
Movie Clip, Guardian Clip

Membership, 790  
Average attendance, 291  
Egg Hunt—333, 564, 609

What about the number we did not reach? 60,000 to 90,000?

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* —2 Peter 3:9

To God 1 lost lamb in the bush is worth more than 99 sheep in the hand.