

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 9

The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He ministered to the needs of people

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Role of the Church in the Community. Our topic today: The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He ministered to the needs of people.

Scripture Theme Song: It is good to give thanks (Ps. 92:1-4)

Christ's method –“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, **ministered to their needs**, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.’

1) Sensing the needs of others

- a) What are some effective ways to discover the needs of others?
 - i) Mark 10:46-52; John 5:1-6 – ask them
 - (1) If Jesus already knew the need of the blind man and the paralytic, why did He ask them to express their need?
 - ii) Matthew 14:14 – be observant
 - (1) How can we learn to be more attentive to the needs of those around us?

- b) Why are we often times oblivious to the needs of those around us?
- 2) Being aware of deeper spiritual needs
 - a) Mark 2:1-12
 - b) How can we become more aware of the deeper spiritual needs of those around us?
 - i) Psalm 139:1-12
 - ii) Psalm 32:8
 - iii) Jeremiah 33:3
 - c) Is it ever appropriate to meet a person's physical needs without meeting their deeper spiritual needs?
 - d) Is it ever appropriate to care for a person's deeper spiritual needs without caring for his or her other immediate needs?
- 3) Ministering to the needs of those around us
 - a) The command of Jesus – John 13:34-35; John 15:12
 - b) Philip: Acts 8:26-38 – ministered to the Ethiopian
 - i) what was the Ethiopian official's immediate need? What was his deeper need?
 - c) Ananias: Acts 9:10-18 – ministered to Saul
 - d) Peter: Acts 9:32-35 – ministered to Aeneas
 - e) Dorcas : Acts 9:36-42 – ministered to widows
 - f) Share a time when someone met your needs and you were blessed physically and spiritually.
 - g) What are some ways you (as an individual or as a church) are meeting the needs of those living in your community?
 - h) What counsel would you give to a person who doesn't feel motivated to minister to the needs of others?