

# The Personalized Ministry of Jesus

*“To minister”* (Mark 10:45)

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## “Ministry” Defined

The term “ministry” can be defined in two simple words – *meeting needs*. It is unfortunate to assume that ministry is a position or a program or even a profession. In Mark 10, beginning at verse 35, Jesus is dealing with disciples who wanted to be exalted, recognized, and famous. The example of the Lord Jesus not only addressed their request, but it identified several key elements in the life of one who ministers.

### 1. Ministry involves an attitude of selflessness

- *“...not to be ministered unto...”* (v. 45)
- Jesus did not live **for Himself**, but **for others!**
- Phil 2:7 – *“...made Himself of no reputation...”*

### 2. Ministry involves an act of service

- *“...but to minister...”* (v. 45)
- Jesus did not focus on meeting **His own needs**, but meeting the **needs of others!**
- Phil. 2:7 – *“...took upon Him the form of a servant...”*

### 3. Ministry involves an acceptance of sacrifice

- *“...and to give His life a ransom for many.”* (v. 45)
- Jesus did not seek **to get**, but **to give!**
- Phil. 2:8 – *“...became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

## The Ministry of Jesus

Modern ministry methods must be reconsidered as we evaluate the means we are using to reach our desired end. Driven by a desire to increase our statistical results, it is easy to allow modern technological advances to replace the basics of personalized ministry. When we study the way Jesus ministered, we relearn the principles of effective ministry from the Master of ministry Himself.

### 1. His ministry was an **individual** ministry

- Though Jesus did minister on occasion to the multitudes, He never overlooked the individual. The gospels record more encounters with individuals than with crowds. Each and every person was important to Him.

### 2. His ministry was a **personal** ministry

- Jesus ministered to immediate needs with the goal of ministering to ultimate needs. When Jesus ministered to people, He initially addressed a great need, so that He could eventually address the greatest need in their lives.

### 3. His ministry was a **relational** ministry

- Jesus specialized in connecting with people. He went where they were and did what they were doing. This unique approach allowed Him to “build a bridge” and “open a door” so that he could impact their lives.

## 1. **Stops** (takes time)

It would seem that Jesus did not have a lot of unclaimed time during His 3½ years of earthly ministry, yet He frequently made time for individuals so that He could minister to them.

- Zacchaeus – *“must abide at thy house”* (Luke 19:5)
- Disciples (Emmaus) – *“He went in to tarry with them”* (Luke 24:29)
- Nicodemus – *“by night”* (John 3:2)
- Samaritan woman – *“sat thus on the well”* (John 4:6)

## Interruptions (“turned”)

- Woman who touched his garment – *“Jesus **turned** Him about”* (Matt. 9:22, Mark 5:30)
- Great multitudes – *“He **turned** and said unto them”* (Luke 14:25)
- Two disciples – *“Jesus **turned** and saw them following”* (John 1:38)

Jesus did not see people and their problems as an inconvenience but rather as an opportunity. When He didn't have time, He made time to minister to them. He did not allow busyness to become a limitation. Ministering to people places excessive demands upon our time and our resources and it forces the one who is ministering to give unselfishly.

**There is enough time in every day  
for that which is the will of God.**

## 2. **Sees** (alert and aware)

Jesus always seemed to have His eyes open and observant to see what opportunities existed around Him.

### From the Gospel of Matthew – “(Jesus) saw...”

- Peter and Andrew (4:18)
- James and John (4:21)
- Peter’s wife’s mother (fever) (8:14)
- Multitudes (8:18; 9:36; 14:14)
- Matthew (9:9)
- Woman with issue of blood (9:22)

### The Rich Young Man – Mark 10:17-22

In this passage, a young man (Matt. 19:22) came to Jesus, inquiring about receiving eternal life. Three thoughts appear in verse 21 as Jesus responded to him.

#### 1. Jesus observed him – “...*beholding him...*”

- There is a need for concentration. The word “*beholding*” not only means “to look on” but also “to observe fixedly”. The practical application would mean “to look him right in the eyes”.

#### 2. Jesus loved him – “...*loved him...*”

- There is a need for compassion. What is seen will affect the mind and what we think, but it will really affect the heart and what we feel.

#### 3. Jesus addressed him – “...*said unto him...*”

- There is a need for communication. The words that Jesus spoke were chosen to directly deal with the greatest need in the man’s life.

### 3. **Senses** (moved with compassion)

Jesus never developed an “I don’t care” attitude toward the needs of people. He knew what it was like to have pity and to feel sympathy.

#### For multitudes

- *“the multitudes...moved with compassion”*  
(Matt. 9:36)
- *“a great multitude...moved with compassion”*  
(Matt. 14:14) \*Fed 5000
- *“much people...moved with compassion”*  
(Mark 6:34) \*Fed 5000
- *“I have compassion on the multitude”*  
(Matt. 15:32) \*Fed 4000
- *“I have compassion on the multitude”*  
(Mark 8:2) \*Fed 4000

#### For individuals

- Blind men (Matt. 20:34)
- Leper (Mark 1:41)
- Maniac in the tombs (Mark 5:19)
- Sorrowing widow (Luke 7:13)

#### Tears

\*That which moves me to tears – moves me!

- *“He beheld the city and wept over it”* (Luke 19:41)
- *“Jesus wept”* (John 11:35) \*The tomb of Lazarus

**People will not care how much you know  
until they know how much you care.**

#### 4. **Speaks** (saying the right thing, at the right time, and in the right way)

Jesus knew how to communicate in words as He ministered to people in need. When He spoke, His words were “*word(s) fitly spoken*” (Prov. 25:11). Through the power of words, Jesus communicated God’s Word in a verbal and audible form.

##### The Value of a Good Word From the Lord

- “...*He yet talked to the people...*” (Matt. 12:46)  
\*A crowd of people
- “...*He talked with them...*” (Mark 6:50)  
\*The disciples in the storm
- “...*He talked with us by the way...*” (Luke 24:14,32)  
\*Disciples going to Emmaus
- “...*He talked with the woman...*” (John 4:27)  
\*Samaritan woman

##### The Value of a Good Word About the Lord

It is interesting that 30 times throughout the Gospels the phrase “*asked Him*” appears. Jesus was often asked questions by His disciples as well as lawyers, governors, and even the Pharisees and Sadducees. His responses to these inquiries enabled Him to further communicate the truth.

##### The Value of a Good Word To the Lord

- “...*I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not...*” (Luke 22:32)
- \*Jesus told Peter that He was praying for him.

## 5. **Serves** (a hands-on approach to meeting needs)

Jesus made a connection with people by becoming involved in their lives and meeting their needs directly. When Jesus touched a life, He left a lasting impression upon the individual by a demonstration of loving care them.

### A Touch of Healing

- Leprosy (Matt. 8:3, Mark 1:41, Luke 5:13)
- Fever (Matt. 8:15)
- Blindness (Matt. 9:29, 20:34)
- Deafness, speech impediment (Mark 7:33)
- Severed ear (Luke 22:51)

### A Touch of Life

- Dead man (Luke 7:14)

### A Touch of Comfort

- Disciples on Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:7)

### A Touch of Blessing

- The infants and children (Mark 10:13,16, Luke 18:15)

### Touching a Life

1. You must get close enough to identify with the problem.
2. You must intentionally reach out to meet the obvious need.
3. You must minimize the risks involved with a desire to impact the life.

## 6. **Saves** (provides forgiveness and salvation from sin)

Jesus came to this earth so that ultimately He could provide salvation for sinfully lost human beings. When Jesus taught a lesson, provided a meal, or healed an illness, He was simply creating an opportunity to address the real need, which was the spiritual need of the individual.

- Matt. 1:21 – *“Call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sin.”*
- Luke 19:10 – *“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

### Saving People as Jesus Did

#### 1. A priority that must be established

There is no greater need in the life of any person than an understanding and acceptance of the gospel message of saving faith in Christ alone.

#### 2. A purpose that must be embraced

It is necessary to provide shelter for a homeless person, nourishment for a starving person, medicine for an ill person, and comfort for a grieving person. However these endeavors must be seen only as a means to an ultimate end.

#### 3. A pattern that must be encouraged

- *“Thy faith hath saved thee”* (Luke 7:50)  
\*Woman who anointed the feet of Jesus
- *“Thy faith hath saved thee”* (Luke 18:42)  
\*Blind man