

# Ministry



"Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God."

**WARREN W. WIERSBE**



**PRAY FIRST:** O LORD GOD, there is no blessing we implore but thou art able to give, hast promised to give, hast given already to countless multitudes, all unworthy and guilty like ourselves; make us willing to receive the supply of our need from thy bounty. To this end convince us of sin, soften our hard hearts, to bewail our folly, ingratitude, pride, unbelief, rebellion, corruption.

---

## Understanding the Truth

---

- 1 Peter 4:10 tells believers of something we've been *given*, something we are to *do*, whom we are to share it with and *why*? "*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*"

**The feeding of the 5,000** is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels (*Matthew 14:15-21; Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14*). It is here that we discover one of the most important lessons regarding service. Read one of the accounts and find the answers to these questions:

- A. What problem did they face?
- B. Whose responsibility was it to solve the problem?
- C. What did Jesus need the disciples to do?

Here's an important truth regarding service: Jesus needs us to be DISTRIBUTORS, not MANUFACTURERS. The multiplication takes place in *His hands*; the distribution takes place in *our hands*.

## What Are the Divine Resources for Ministry?

- A. What did Paul say was the resource that enabled him to serve Christ? (*Read 1 Corinthians 15:10.*)
- B. According to 2 Corinthians 9:8, what is God able to do for you in ministry?

We are *channels*—not *reservoirs*—of God's resources.

## What Human Needs Are We to Meet in Ministry?

People have all kinds of needs—*physical, emotional, relational, and financial*. But the greatest need of all is SPIRITUAL. However, that doesn't mean that the Bible and prayer will meet all of their needs.

- What does James 2:15-20 warn us about?

## What Type of People Does God Desire for Ministry?

- A. What moved Jesus as He saw the multitudes "*distressed...like sheep without a shepherd*"? (*Read Matthew 9:36.*)
- B. What was it that compelled Paul in ministry? (*Read 2 Corinthians 5:14.*)
- C. According to 1 Corinthians 13:3, will sacrificial service alone profit in the long run? Why not?

## What Is the Goal of Ministry?

- A. According to 1 Corinthians 10:31, what is the goal of ministry?
- B. How do you know when what you're doing is really glorifying God?
1. When people see the Lord and not the servant (*Matthew 5:16*)
  2. When people see the Master and not the minister
  3. When your service produces fruit (*John 15:8*)
  4. When the enemy opposes what you're doing (*1 Corinthians 16:9*)
- C. Questions to ask yourself when evaluating a ministry:
- Is it biblical?
  - What are the goals of the ministry?
  - Would this allow you to keep Christ first in your life?
  - Why do you want to do this?

## How Do You Discover Your Place in Ministry?

Consider your SHAPE:

- **S - Spiritual gifts**
- **H - Heart or passion** (What gets you excited?)
- **A - Abilities** (What skills or talents do you have?)
- **P - Personality**
- **E - Experiences** (What experiences has God allowed in your life—good or bad?)

**Now the key is to START SERVING SOMEWHERE!**

*"The heir of heaven serves his Lord simply out of gratitude; he has no salvation to gain, no heaven to lose; now out of love to the God who chose him, and who gave so great a price for his redemption, he desires to lay out himself entirely to his Master's service."—C.H. Spurgeon*

---

## Embracing the Truth

Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



---

### APPLICATION

#### Being a doer of the Word

1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?



---

### ACCOUNTABILITY

#### Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships

How are you doing in the area of **LIFE** and **MINISTRY**?

- Assess your overall energy in life and ministry:

(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)

- Assess your **feelings of effectiveness** in your ministry:

(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)

---

## Obeying the Truth—your mission this week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel



- Get involved with or start a bible study, Young Life chapter, mentoring program, or youth group at your local junior high or high school.



### MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 1 Peter 4:10

*"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*



### EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Alleine, Joseph. *An Alarm to the Unconverted*. Mulberry: Sovereign Grace Publishers. 2002. Print.  
Bolton, Samuel et.al. *The Puritans on Conversion*. Grand Rapids: Soli Deo Gloria Publications. 2003. Print.

### Understanding the Truth

- A. food shortage
- B. Jesus
- C. to distribute food

### What Are the Divine Resources for Ministry?

- A. the grace of God
- B. make all grace abound to you—provide all that you need

### What Human Needs Are We to Meet in Ministry?

- faith without works is useless—we must meet the immediate needs of those around us

### What Type of People Does God Desire for Ministry?

- A. compassion
- B. the love of Christ
- C. no, we must have love

### What Is the Goal of Ministry?

- A. God's glory

© September 15, 2016 The Church at South Mountain

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred.

Any exceptions to the above must be approved by The Church at South Mountain.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy:

© The Church at South Mountain. Website: [casm.org](http://casm.org)

While all reasonable attempts have been taken to trace the literary and biblical sources used by the author, due to the nature of some of the original materials (old audio/radio or live preaching events), some have been impossible to locate. Any information regarding the origin of any unreferenced statements or quotations is welcomed and will be included in the next revision of the study.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.