
THE TRUTH HERALD

Your God-Ordained, Tailor-Made Ministry



1. *What is your ministry as a born-again child of God?*

Many times, the word ministry has been used to refer to an established Christian organization or church. However, every born-again believer has a tailor-made and God-ordained ministry. This ministry is unique to who you are, where you live, where you work or school, wherever you find yourself at any given time, as well as the people around you. The Word of God says in 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) that "... you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." You are a living, walking, and extremely powerful temple of God. "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself." (1 Cor 6:19). You have been equipped to do every good work, God's work, wherever you are. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work." "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col 3:17). This Scripture does not limit us to any particular location; it says *whatever we do, in word or deed*. The following ministries therefore are not independent of one another. They can be called upon on the same or different occasions, and they are tailor-made just for you: a born-again believer. *Your ministry is any and everywhere.*

2 - Family Ministry

Your ministry starts around your family. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12). Paul also wrote: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Eph 6:1) In Mark 7: 10-13 Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for encouraging people to neglect their family responsibilities: "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death. But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God), then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down." According to 1 Timothy 5:8, if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. In John 19: 26-27, in Jesus' final hours and most agonizing moments, He showed love, respect and care for His mother. Who better to minister to in word and deed than the people closest to you: your family? Jesus' main ministry was preaching the word of God but He also emphasized the important need to minister to family. Will you let your desire to do what you define as "God's work" get in the way of your Family Ministry? "Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do." "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: if you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. (Eph 6: 1-4). God placed us in families for a reason: to minister His glory to those closest to us.

3 - Your Sychar Ministry

John 4:1-42 tells a beautiful story of a tired and hungry Jesus, who had sent his disciples for supplies and sat himself near a well. The result of a casual conversation with a Samaritan woman from the village of Sychar -- who had come to fetch water -- was the conversion of most of her village. And Jesus, as a Jew, had no business speaking with her. Oftentimes, the last thing we want to do when tired or hungry or just plain bored is to seek out private space. Yet, Jesus gives us this example of not just seizing any opportunity to share His grace with others, but even with people that society says we should have nothing to do with. It began as a casual and respectful conversation. He did not look down on the woman or her friends. He did not consider who He was in relation to her but seized the opportunity to let her know that her Living Water was right there. Will you let your desires, pride and prejudices get in the way of your Sychar Ministry to make the Living Water available to all?

4 - Your Samaritan Ministry

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37) is one of loving our neighbor as ourselves and attending to them in their hour of great need. Our neighbor is not just the person (or persons) living in closer proximity to us, but anyone with a need. An act of mercy, meeting people's needs wherever the opportunity presents itself, is an act of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Just as in the story, oftentimes we behave like the priest and the Levite who wanted nothing to do with someone who was not of their kind; or who were just busy moving on to do "better" things; or who were just being indifferent when they neglected the wounded man lying on the roadside. There are many people lying daily by the roadside of our lives; people who are never considered our priority because we are

so focused on moving on to do "better" things. Jesus encourages us to do like the Samaritan did and recognize that there are many with spiritual, material and emotional needs all around us --wherever we are -- if only we are willing to sacrifice our own comfort and convenience. Will you let what you feel or think about yourself get in the way of your Samaritan Ministry?

5 - Your Bethesda Ministry

Sometimes people around us will have nothing to do with us but be focused on what they have wanted for a long time and what they are waiting for a breakthrough. In John 15: 1-9, Jesus encountered a man wanting to be well but who had missed all the opportunities to do so because he had no help to get Him to his breakthrough. There are many such people around us, lying by the Pool called Bethesda, and all they need is someone to point them to the One with whom all things are possible. Will you let the inadequacies and hopelessness someone feels get in the way of your Bethesda Ministry when you know that with the God you serve, nothing is impossible? "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (Matt. 19:26)

6 - Your Beautiful Gate Ministry

Your ministry also involves acts outside the church and goes beyond providing physical or material things. Peter and John were heading to the temple when they heard the plea of a lame man right outside the temple gate. "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" (Acts:3:6). We do not need to be rich to minister. It may just be the act of making ourselves available and calling on the name of Jesus to meet a need someone has. We may rush to church but neglect to see that we miss out on several "Beautiful Gate" ministry opportunities. Will you let your urgent desire to attend church activities or lack of physical and material things or your own inadequacies get in the way of your Beautiful Gate ministry?

7 - "Fellowship with the Holy Spirit" Ministry

Our fellowship goes beyond fellowshiping with one another, but perhaps most importantly involves fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is like two-way traffic. It involves constantly yielding our will to the will of the Father and sharing feelings and knowledge with His Holy Spirit. It is a give-and-take ministry. Jesus said about the Holy Spirit: "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has Heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me." (John 16: 13-14). The Holy Spirit guides and transmits to us whatever God tells Him. This is how we are equipped to do God's tailor-made work for us. "Now may the God of peace who brought up from the dead our dear Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified the eternal covenant with His blood, may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen." (Hebrews 13: 20-21). When you fellowship with the Holy Spirit, each moment you get your supplies for doing God's will. How beautiful!

8 - Your "Fellowship with Other Believers" Ministry

Right from the young age of 12, Jesus showed the desire to fellowship with others and ministered in the temple. In Hebrews 10: 23-25, Paul encourages us as believers: "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near." We have a ministry of motivating others to let their salt continue to savor and their light shine. (Matt 5: 13-15) Jesus Himself is our master or source light. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8:12) He is our power source who encourages us to remain in Him because He is the vine and we are the branches. "I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in Him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Yes, without Him, we can do nothing. Without Him, our ministry will be ineffective.

9 - "Praise in Prison" Ministry

Oftentimes the last place and time you would want to carry out your ministry is when you are in extreme distress. Paul and Silas exemplified this "Praise in Prison" ministry in Acts 16: 24-34. God used them tremendously when they chose to praise Him in their worst moments. The result? The jailer "... brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God." In dire moments we should remember Phil 4:11-13: "Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty of little. For I can do everything in Christ, who gives me strength." We are able to rejoice in the Lord in whatever situation because "... this same God who takes care of me will supply all needs from His glorious riches, which have been given us in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)

10 - Reconciliation Ministry

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All of this from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5: 17-20). Many people pay, in one way or another, to represent their countries as ambassadors. God in His great mercy and grace, through Jesus' blood, has made us His ambassadors, when and wherever we may be, and charged us with the ministry of reconciliation, of bringing back souls to Him. We may do this in word or deed -- wherever we may be. Jesus Himself commanded so. "And then He told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15). Will you let fear or timidity or rejection or prejudice get in the way of discharging your duties as an ambassador for Christ in the Ministry of Reconciliation?