

LESSON 9

THE NON-ORDAINED LAY MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH FOR THE SERVICE OF WITNESSING AND OUTREACH

INTRODUCTION

THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBES THREE DISTINCT SETS OF MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

- The five-fold governing ministries for the church universal.
- The ordained lay ministries for the local churches (elders and deacons).
- The non-ordained lay ministries for the local churches, which can be divided into two groups:
 - The non-ordained ministries for witnessing and outreach. (Acts 1:8)
 - The other lay ministries.

BELIEVERS IN NON-ORDAINED MINISTRIES

- May or may not have a divine call on their lives.
- Must be spiritually gifted by the Lord. (Acts 2:17)
- Must be confirmed by the Holy Spirit in the Body in which, and out of which, they serve.

OUR PERSONAL CALL

THE NEW TESTAMENT CLEARLY DEFINES AND EXHORTS EVERY DISCIPLE OF CHRIST TO MINISTER IN SOME WAY (1 COR. 12, MATT. 28:19, EPH. 2:10, 1 PET. 4:10-11)

- The book of Acts describes the first century church as a beehive of activity where every member was involved in praying, sharing, loving, teaching and giving. (Acts 2:44-47).
- The Bible is full of examples of simple, uneducated and seemingly inadequate people being used in mighty ways by God when they allowed God to use them and move through them. (1 Cor. 1:26-27; Acts 4:13; James 5:17)

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Barbara Kuhn in her book *The Whole Lay Ministry Catalog* writes: "In His infinite wisdom, He (the Lord) has set apart a place of service for each of His children. Some are called to visible ministries, recognized and applauded by many; others are called to unseen, unlauded ministries known only to God, (but) all are called to be available to perform ministry that is tailor-made for them individually...*God has called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (2 Tim. 1:9 KJV).*"

PREPARATION FOR NON-ORDAINED MINISTRY FOR SERVICE AND OUTREACH

WHERE AND WHEN TO MINISTER

- The church building is not the only place for lay ministry.
- Whenever we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, show hospitality to the stranger, and counsel those in prison, we serve and minister unto Him. (Matt. 25:34-40; Heb. 13:2)

HOW TO MINISTER? WE MUST DISCOVER WHAT OUR OWN PARTICULAR GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ARE (MATT. 25:15-30)

- We must understand what God's Word says about gifts and ministries.
- We must be introspective and analyze our own unique attributes (meaning both our talents and our supernatural energies) and how they fit into the body of Christ in which we are currently placed.
- We must take appropriate action to get started.
 - Observe the needs in the local body as far as outreach is concerned. Some ministries are used by God to do the actual outreach; others are used to teach, train, or organize other body members for the work of outreach.

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- Ascertain how to fit the particular ministry to which one feels drawn into home and family life and get the agreement and approval of one's family before beginning.
- Receive approval for our ministries from the governing and ordained authorities for our local church.
 - It is the lay member's obligation to let those in spiritual authority know what God is leading him to do, so that the leaders can pray and come to an agreement in the Spirit before the actual ministry is attempted.
 - This step serves as protection and confirmation that God is truly raising one up at a certain time in a certain place for a specific work.
- Take action. Go forth regardless of one's inexperience, shyness, the personal sacrifice of money, time, and/or energy and the battle with the enemy that must be constantly waged and won.

CATEGORIES OF NON-ORDAINED SERVICE MINISTRIES (ROM. 12:6-8)

LAY-TEACHING

- Definition – the imparting or the proclaiming of Bible precepts or truths vocally, visually, or by example.
- Bible study leaders, Sunday School teachers, counselors, youth workers, and group leaders of all kinds are involved in various aspects of teaching or the accurate relating of truth.
- Requirements
 - What is not required – professional training is not necessary since the Holy Spirit can and does teach through those He enhances or equips with supernatural wisdom and knowledge for His service. (1 John 2:27)

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- What is required – an openness or yieldedness to the Holy Spirit and the willingness to give the necessary time to prayer, study, and advance preparation. (2 Chron. 30:8; Luke 22:42; Psalm 55:17).
- Teachers should pattern themselves after their Master Teacher, Jesus, who always taught:
 - By example – Jesus never asked others to do anything He would not or did not do before them.
 - In simple terms that every hearer could understand; with illustrations, stories, and clarifying examples.
 - With applications relevant and practical in daily life.

EXHORTATION

- Definition – lovingly calling for the best from others by encouraging and admonishing, advising, or inciting to proper action.
- Goal of this ministry – to help others be more dedicated to Christ.
- Those who teach, preach, counsel, lead, write letters to prisoners or shut-ins, comfort the sorrowing or sinful, give divinely inspired messages of prophesy, tongues and interpretation, all minister in exhortation.
- The key instruction
 - Prayer.
 - Always be on guard to speak in and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit only and not in the flesh that can so easily become judgmental.

GIVING

- Definition – sharing what one is or has with others.
- Those who give of their time, their talents, and/or their means, liberally and self-sacrificially with a joyful heart, minister in giving.

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- Believers who support others' ministries and charities, the needy and spiritual projects, beyond their tithes and offerings are lay-givers of earthly treasure.
- Those who serve as choir members, musicians, artists, gardeners and writers to assist the church and community are lay-givers of their talents.
- Those who give themselves to worship-leading, sharing the Word, prayer, fellowship, missions, and volunteer work are lay-ministers of the precious gift of time.
- We are held accountable to and by the Giver of all gifts as to our talents, time and money.

LEADERSHIP

- Definition – those who set patterns for others to follow, by direction, instruction, guidance, encouragement, or example.
- Every church group, guild, committee and programmed activity needs leadership.
- Examples: recreational leaders, social leaders, spiritual leaders, training leaders, task leaders.
- Requirements
 - Every lay-leader should submit both to the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit and to the earthly authorities under whom he serves. These authorities serve to confirm and correct the lay-leaders' activities.
 - "Those who do not submit to authority are not worthy to wield authority." Watchman Nee

MERCY

- Definition – kindness and compassion especially toward those who seem least deserving of it.
- Bearing one another's burdens includes forgiving and comforting those who have erred, comforting the bereaved, helping those who face a crisis, ministering to the sick, being a peacemaker, and assisting the needy.

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- Mercy acts include hospital calling, counseling, visiting, making things for or giving things to the poor, befriending the lonely, greeting newcomers and visitors and all volunteer efforts that reflect the inner grace of mercy.
- Lay-mercy ministers should remember at all times that God is merciful, and they should reflect that part of His nature more and more fully day by day.

HELPS

- Definition – all those works that give assistance or relief from distress wherever needed.
- There are untold jobs, functions, and needs in and through a church that need a helping hand.
- Examples – church office workers, child care attendants, kitchen workers, fund raisers, maintenance workers, committee members, prayer intercessors.
- All lay-helps ministers are extremely vital in the carrying on of the work of the Kingdom.

CONCLUSION

Any and every ministry, however quiet and unnoticed or however mighty and attention-getting, are equally valued and rewarded by our Lord now and in the great judgment to come.