

A Balanced Ministry: Evangelism, Discipleship and Benevolence

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True kingdom productivity finds its roots in the engagement of Evangelism, Discipleship and Benevolence. To lack in any of these is to miss the mark and disregard the intentionality of Jesus' ministry and purpose for the church. While these are often defined as separate ministries it is quite apparent that Jesus took every opportunity to demonstrate their connectedness. He presented them within a context that would avoid the presentation of one without the others resulting in an inadequate gospel.

I. Look At The Principle Work – The Command

- A. Evangelism – proclaiming, believing, receiving (Mark 16:15-18).
- B. Discipleship – following, learning, becoming (Matthew 16:24-25).
- C. Benevolence – Seeing, feeling, sharing (Matthew 25:31-40).
- D. Jesus presents to us three models to observe.
 - 1. The Field (Matthew 15:29-38)
 - a. He ministered.
 - b. He instructed.
 - c. He provided.
 - 2. The Kingdom (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - a. Kingdom people are socially involved.
 - b. Kingdom people are spiritually incited.
 - c. Kingdom people are sacrificially insistent.
 - 3. The Cross (John 19:25-27)
 - a. Jesus offers a thief paradise.
 - b. Jesus offers a disciple partnership.
 - c. Jesus offers a mother provision.

II. Look At The Philosophy Within – The Conviction

- A. Convictions are based on that which is contextual.
 - 1. Are these models limited to an applicable time frame?
 - 2. Are these models limited to an applicable people group?

- B. Convictions are based on that which is culturally relevant.
1. Are there indicators that state the need for these models?
 2. Are there indicators that state the receptivity of these models?
 - According to 72.2% of the U.S. population, fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.
 - Every 30 seconds two children become orphans.
 - There are 13 million worldwide now; the number is expected to reach 44 million by 2010.
 - Nearly 700,000 women lose their husbands each year and will be widows for an average of 14 years.
 - 32% of women aged 55 and older are widows.
 - 37 million in the U.S. live in poverty.
 - Women make up 71 percent of the elderly poor. One in four women past 65 living alone is poor.
- C. Convictions are based on that which is convincingly spiritual.
1. Do I have a spiritual responsibility to see the model at work?
 2. Do I have a spiritual responsibility to see others work the model?

III. Look At The Practice Without – The Caring

- A. God mentions three target areas for benevolence.
1. The poor (Leviticus 25:35; Proverbs 19:17)
 2. The orphan (James 1:27; Isaiah 1:17)
 3. The widow (Exodus 22:22-23; 1 Timothy 5:3-4)
- B. Action comes when we focus upon the spoken.
- C. Action comes when we focus upon the unspoken.
- D. What is it that God says to us about caring for others?
- E. What is it that God does not say to us about caring for others?

Conclusion: It has been stated, “Out of the insignificant can come the infinitely important things the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us and is using for a greater strategy.” This holds true when we consider evangelism, discipleship and benevolence as a total approach to ministry. To underestimate any part of this trilogy is to miss the significant voice of the Spirit as it relates to successful kingdom effectiveness.