

DEVELOPING A "BEACON OF HOPE" LOCAL CHURCH

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PART ONE

SCRIPTURE: “Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road (Mark 10:46-52, *NIV*).

I. THE STORY OF BARTIMAEUS VISION (Pastor Steve)

- A. The Crowd Wants to See Jesus.
 - 1. They are excited and wanting Him to touch them.
 - 2. In their excitement they fail to see the needs of Bartimaeus.
 - 3. They aren't bad people—just blind to the needs of the marginalized.
- B. The Church is Like the Crowd.
 - 1. We are all wanting to see Jesus and have His touch.
 - 2. But we fail to see the needs of the hurting and lost around us.
 - 3. We have also been taught to disregard the needs of those we consider beneath us.

II. CHAPLAINCY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- A. The Call
 - 1. A 2 a.m. wake-up
 - 2. Listening to the Voice of God.
- B. The Burden
 - 1. Chaplaincy in the local church
 - 2. Passion for the vision
 - 3. Isaiah 61—Jesus' job description: turning ashes into beauty

PART TWO

I. TURNING THE CHURCH INTO A BEACON OF HOPE

A. Pastoral Vision

1. Must have a vision to reach out to those often forgotten
2. Must have Godly compassion—not sympathy
3. Must be willing to stay for the long haul
4. Must be able to teach and to lead. It will take a massive new training effort.
5. Must pastor a community not just a church

B. The Church

1. Must accept vision for the hurting and lost.
2. Must be willing to embrace new things.
3. Must understand the need for community involvement.

II. A BEACON OF HOPE

A. Ministry as "People-centered"—Not as Job/task-centered

1. Ministry is then centered around the needs of people—not the traditions or functions of the organization.
2. Training must precede ministry.
3. Seek ways to become connected to the community.

B. Faith Temple

1. Casting a Vision—Fall 2000
2. Safe Harbor—Winter 2001
3. Care Conference—Spring 2001
4. Discipling/Counseling
5. Care Ministries
6. Angel Food Ministries—Fall 2001
7. Media Ministries—Fall 2001/Winter 2002
8. CSC Training for Local Church/Community

THE FINAL WORD: Matthew 25:31-46—the parable of the sheep and the goats.

- Jesus clearly states that those who are His will be involved in ministry to the marginalized.
- The goats are those who are involved in religious matters versus ministry.
- Jesus states that the sheep will enter heaven and see God the Father.
- The goats will not . . . you can be in church for a lifetime and still miss the mark!