

How To Help & Serve People – 3

I have been speaking about Helping and Serving people as we all desire to do that. I differentiated between helping and serving (helping - need to; Serving - want to)

Our scripture is in the book of Acts 3:1-7 with Peter and John walking to the temple at the hour of prayer and seeing a miracle unfold right before their very eyes.

Miracles happen in ordinary moments- expect the supernatural to manifest in your daily walk with Jesus That you must be prepared when your moment comes - You can't give what you don't have; You can't give what you don't know and you can't share what you don't feel - You got to have, know and feel first.

We need to be comfortable in our own skin i.e. be what God created you to be and be content. God is your Father; you know Jesus and Jesus knows you. Love from the centre of who you are - don't fake it (Rom 12:6-9)

Today I am continuing on the same subject of serving people.

Notice Peter and John in Vs 4 **fixed their eyes on this lame man and commanded him to look at them.** Peter and John were willing to let the lame man interrupt their plans. They were going to pray at the hour of prayer. They may have been late as a result of turning their attention to his lame man.

Are we so busy with religious activity - that we don't take time to minister to people's needs? Do people really matter? There are hurting people around us today. We live in a very selfish society and often because of our business can get caught into this trap of selfishness. Just thinking about ourselves only. Got no time for anyone else.

Gal 2: 20_NLT Paul puts it like this, My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What an amazing way to live. My prayer is, God help me to live like this where it's not me anymore but it is more of you in me because then I know I will be fulfilling your call in my life.

The bible tells us that we are more blessed when we give rather than when we receive. Isn't that crazy! Who in their right mind would do that!

We have ben taught to keep as much as is possible and only if we have something to spare then we will give. In God's economy it does not work like that because in His economy the more you give the more you will receive and be blessed. The picture is that of a fountain that is flowing not a stagnant pool because a flowing spring is refreshing but a stagnant pool stinks.

Ps 23 tells us that God is our Shepherd, he will refresh us and lead us in his ways. He will deliver us from evil. He will re-store our soul (mind emotions and will).

Giving fuels or nourishes us... whereas withholding drains us.

(Prov 11:24) One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Giving requires energy because you have to do something. When you are a giver you bring life like watering a plant so that it grows. A taker (stingy stinker) sucks the water and nutrients out of you and leaves you dry and useless. There are some who just take and never give. Let's be those who give because God will take care of us.

Who are we refreshing today? Who are we shepherding today? Who are we serving today? Who are we living for today? ourselves or others?

The lame man gave Peter and John his full attention - Have we got people's attention? are they really hearing what you say or are they blinded by circumstances that they cannot see a way forward?

Sometimes we have to get the other person's attention and commitment before we can give them a helping hand. There are some no matter what you do refuse to give their full attention, refuse to listen to Godly counsel and advise. If we don't have a person full attend then what we do will not have any effect. It will be like pouring water on ducks back.

I think often we don't receive from God because we fail to give Him our full attention. We get caught up with all the issues of life and we fail to go to the giver of life, the one who can solve our situation. We often get so busy with trying to fix our problems instead of going to the one who can fix you - Jesus. He is the designer and the architect of your life. He knows how to fix you.

He was expecting - to receive from Peter and John. We too must expect to receive when we focus our attention on God the Father. When you pray, believe that God has heard your prayer and His answer is never too late.

Be expectant when you pray, when you read God's word. Be expectant to hear God and flow in the gifts of the Spirit. Be expectant that any time God can use you in any way he wants to... be ready for the suddenly's.

Be ready in season and out of season because Gods season for change can be now! You might think it is the wrong season but God might have just what you need in that very season you think is not your season. God says His ways are not our ways and neither are his thoughts (Isaiah 55:8)

What are we expecting from God right now? What is your heart yearning for?

- Is it for the Kingdom of God?
- for people to know Jesus?
- to be healed,
- delivered from demonic oppression,
- freed from slavery to sin? (Red Card)

Is your expectation for a mighty move of God here in New Malden? Is that what you are praying for daily? For God's presence every time we meet?

This week let's look at how we can serve someone, pray for someone, invite someone. Bringing someone here ushers that person into God's presence where they can be healed.

Jesus loves you. He has a great future for you. Only Jesus can satisfy your need because He paid the price for your freedom with his blood. He calls you and longs to release you from bondage and slavery to the devil and to sin. He longs to be your Lord and Saviour.