

# Ministering to Jesus

**E.T.S.:** Jesus set out on a second tour of Galilee accompanied by His twelve disciples and women who ministered to Him.

**E.S.S.:** Ministering to Jesus looks a lot like what this passage describes.

**Christ Follower:** Change your perspective about ministry and ministering. Say, "I am ministering to Jesus. I am serving Jesus."

**Christ Seeker:** Choose Jesus. Come and receive the free offer of new life that He makes.

## Introduction

Turn to Luke chapter eight for the message today.

## Illustration

Who do you minister to?

I am thankful for about twenty who gathered at the home of Glenn and Janice Davis last Sunday to assist them with cleanup following the tornado on Wednesday, July 19. Glenn and Janice are elderly people who have given their lives to serving Jesus. Yet, riding through the

storm like they did shook them, as it would any of us.

In experiences such as these, the church of Jesus Christ has a unique opportunity to serve. We receive the opportunity to show our love for God and others through practical acts of service to others. Ministering is so much more than the worship that takes place in the church house; it is getting your hands dirty, working up a sweat, standing up for and with the abused and oppressed, giving money, and taking risks.

In doing these things, who do you minister to?

Share about my conversation with Nikki on Wednesday.

## Introduction

Follow along as I read verses 1-3 of Luke 8.

## Bible

*(1) And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, (2) And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, (3) And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*

*Luke 8:1-3 - KJV*

## Introduction

This brief passage introduces us to a second tour around Galilee by Jesus, following the first referenced in Luke 4:42-44. Luke highlights some who were with Him for this second tour. The chosen twelve among the disciples were there. Then, Luke informs us that certain women were present with Him. This revelation represents an unusual circumstance for the culture. Praise God that Jesus received the ministry of women. He did not repudiate them; He received and raised them to a higher level.

Ladies, you do not have a lower rank in God's family or rank in His service. Shame on men who have used the pulpit and God's Word to belittle and demean women. By the way, shame on men in the church who have sat on the sidelines while women jump in to serve and minister inside and outside God's house.

Then, back in the text, Luke showed who they ministered to and how they ministered.

Please notice this!

## Bible

*(3) And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others,  
which ministered **unto him** of their substance.*

*Luke 8:3 - KJV*

## Introduction

Who do you minister to?

If you asked the twelve disciples, the certain women who were with Him, or, I suppose, any others who traveled with Him, you would hear the same answer.

We minister to Him.

You say, "Of course, they were literally with Him."

Ok.

But what did Jesus say according to the Scripture we read earlier in the service?

## **Bible**

*(34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (35) For **I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: (36) Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.** (37) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? (38) When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? (39) Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? (40) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

*Matthew 25:34-40 - KJV*

## **Application**

This may seem so simple, but it is so important.

Let's get out of the habit of saying, "I minister to this or that person."

Instead, let's say, "I minister to Jesus."

I don't think it's just semantics.

It makes a difference!

When you prepare to serve in the church, say, "I am ministering to Jesus."

When you prepare to minister through some service opportunity, say, "I am ministering to Jesus."

When you go to serve on the mission field, near or far, say, "I am ministering to Jesus."

When you go to serve in your community, say, "I am ministering for Jesus."

It makes a difference when we take that perspective.

Let's dig into the text to see what ministering to Jesus looked like in the lives of the early followers.

## **1...Ministering to Jesus is my response**

# to what He has done for me (v. 2)

## Explanation

Look again at verse 2 of the text.

## Bible

*(2) And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,*

*Luke 8:2 - KJV*

## Explanation

The women, introduced in this text, had experienced something miraculous by the work of Jesus. Each of them, including Mary Magdalene, had been healed of complex situations.

They experienced demonic oppression and possession. The effects of these are terrible. The Bible describes symptoms like that of psychopathic behavior. Symptoms include injury to self and others, crazed activities, extreme aversion to social interactions, etc.

Certainly, these women were driven from their families and communities. They lost all friendships.

Some of them suffered infirmities. The word describes feebleness of body or mind, a malady, or moral frailty. It identifies incapacity, weakness, limitation. All these women suffered from

conditions that left them severely lacking.

Mary Magdalene suffered harshly. Demonic possession by multiple demons is especially cruel.

All of them experienced healing at the hands of Jesus.

Do you know what the answer is for these things?

Jesus!

Here's the reality. It's not only the gratitude that they owed Him for healing them of infirmities and demonic oppression and possession; they also owed Him gratitude for new life provided through the Gospel. In gratitude, they joined and ministered to Him.

## Application

Serious question for thought: What has Jesus done for you?

If you can sincerely review your life and only answer, "He gave His life for me," that would be enough to gratefully minister to Him forever.

Yet, the reality is He has done so much more for us.

What did Paul say was the basis for giving ourselves as a living sacrifice in Romans 12:1?

## Bible

*(1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*Romans 12:1 - KJV*

## **Application**

What *mercies* has God poured out in your life?

Has He saved you, provided for you, directed you, sustained you, forgiven you, redeemed you, satisfied you, blessed you, etc.?

Has He answered prayer, worked a miracle, placed you in a family or community, etc.?

If you've experienced the mercies of God, it is reasonable to gratefully minister to Jesus.

Have you experienced His mercies?

How are you responding in light of it?

## **Explanation**

Then, would you notice the company of these individuals?

From the twelve disciples, to the women, to Mary Magdalene, to Joanna, and Susanna, this was a varied group full of individuals with complex and sinful backgrounds.

## **Application**

Your background doesn't disqualify you.

Your past doesn't disqualify you.



Your social status doesn't disqualify you.

These things do not keep you from coming to Jesus, and they do not disqualify you from ministering to Jesus.

Do you know the weight of brokenness and sinfulness in this world?

Come to Jesus. He is the answer!

Have you been held back by your background, past, social status, or something else?

You can minister to Jesus. You are not disqualified.

## **2...Ministering to Jesus is my reason to share the Gospel (v. 1)**

### **Explanation**

In the text, what was Jesus's purpose for traveling through Galilee?

### **Bible**

*(1) And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, **preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God:** and the twelve were with him,*

*Luke 8:1 - KJV*

# Explanation

Jesus preached the Gospel.

As much as people need help physically, emotionally, financially, or socially, man's greatest need is the Gospel. That constant is true of all people, in all places, and at all times. Jesus consistently preached these *glad tidings* everywhere He went.

Who was with Him as He did so?

The twelve (v. 1).

The certain women and Mary Magdalene (v. 2).

Joanna, Susanna, and many others (v. 3).

These not only witnessed the works Jesus did, they heard what He preached and taught.

He prepared them to carry on the work after He left.

Did He command them to keep doing the works or keep sharing the message?

He commanded them to keep sharing the message. Look at Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21-23, and Acts 1:8.

# Application

Can we deny that we have been given the ministry of sharing Jesus with others?

I do not think any of us can or would.

However, do you see sharing Jesus with others as ministry to Jesus?

Again, I think that it makes a difference.

You are not ministering to the church when you share Jesus with others.

You are not ministering to the pastor when you share Jesus with others.

You are not ministering to the world when you share Jesus with others.

You are ministering to the Lord when you share Jesus with others.

## **3...Ministering to Jesus is my resources put into use for His work (v. 3)**

### **Explanation**

Again, I see a diverse group of people. They had complex and sinful pasts, as well as different social statuses. Some had a lot; others had a little.

Regardless of what each had, they shared a similarity. Each ministered to Jesus *of their substance*.

No prerequisites related to what the substance was or how much of it there was.

Each one used what they had to minister to Jesus.

## **Illustration**

Consider the Bible illustration of the church at Philippi in 2 Corinthians 8.

## **Application**

Do you not know where to begin to minister for Jesus?

Let me help you: What do you have?

Do you have a voice?

Do you have hands and feet?

Do you have possessions, resources, or finances?

Do you have a skill set?

Do you have a spare bedroom?

Do you have some connections?

Do you have a story to share?

If you have anything, put your resources to use to minister to Jesus.

## **Illustration**

David's exhortation to the people of Israel found in 1 Chronicles 29:5.

## Conclusion

**Christ Follower:** Change your perspective about ministry and ministering. Say, "I am ministering to Jesus. I am serving Jesus."

**Christ Seeker:** Choose Jesus. Come and receive the free offer of new life that He makes.