

MINISTRY TO HURTING PEOPLE

introduction

Time is measured in “minutes”

Life is measured in “moments”

Don't accumulate “possessions’ ACCUMULATE
EXPERIENCES -

that is the stuff MIRACLES are made of

A good “rule of life” -

Haven't met very few people who are
possessed by a demon

BUT I have met lots of people

“possessed by possessions”

(They don't own things - things own them”

It is all about MOMENTS & EXPERIENCES

LIFE OF JESUS - miracles happened when Jesus
encountered someone in a “life experience”

John 14:12 - “Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes
in me will also do the works that I do; and “greater
works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father”
A a **“great God”** wants to do **“great things”** in and
through the lives of those who believe & trust Him
A GREAT GOD WANTS TO DO GREAT THINGS in YOU!

Six (6) verses about ministry to people in need.

Esther 4:14 - “And who knows whether you have not
come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

1. “FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

YOU - here now at PBC - in your class for God

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a great God to do a great thing in your life
YOU - YES - YOU !!!!!!!

ME - MOSES - my stutter - Moses' stutter

Exodus 4:10 - you can't use me - I stutter

That is a LIE - it is a false narrative - not true

"A **FALSE BELIEF** turns into a **FALSE NARRATIVE**
that turns into a **FALSE IDENTITY** that turns into a

FALSE REALITY - "that is not who I am - in Christ
God's RESPONSE - (1) I will help you speak and

(2) I will tell you what to say

Acts 7:22 - "And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of
the Egyptians, and he was "mighty in his words and deeds"

POINT - we are way more aware of our weaknesses, than
our strengths - Moses thought he was BAD at
something that he was actually GOOD at.

GOD IS GOOD AND HE WANTS TO DO GREAT THINGS
in those who believe and trust Him

MY DAILY SPIRITUAL JOURNAL -

SO BE WILLING - BE AVAILABLE - SURRENDER

to be a part of God's work in helping people !!!!

God wants to use us to "encounter people" - like He did
and God wants those encounters to become

MOMENTS of God's grace - power - miracles

and they become life-changing experiences!!!

to help people - hurting people - needy people -

Such a time as this - for just "this moment" NOW

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Just be available - to let God use you to do great things
such a time as this -

OUR BSF CLASS - members - active - inactive - etc
outreach - our family - our friends - neighborhoods
etc etc etc - “thousands of people”

We are going to be available -willing to serve-minister
‘WE OFTEN ASK GOD TO GIVE US A MINISTRY WHILE
WALKING PAST THE MOMENTS IN WHICH
MINISTRY IS ALREADY WAITING”

the people are here - hurting - needing ministry

EARLY CHRISTIANS - Tertullian (197ad)

said about Christians

“see how they love one another”

He said -people where amazed how Christians were
prepared to sacrifice for one another”

2nd century - described Christians like

“they love all men and are persecuted by all”

The early Christians did not become significant because
they occupied important positions. They became
significant because wherever they lived, they brought a
different kind of love.” It was obvious

Emperor Julian said about Christians

“The impious Galileans support not only their own
poor but ours as well.” He said - we are losing influence
because Christians are caring for people better than we are.

They did not just preach that every person mattered to
God. They attempted to live as though every person
person mattered to God.

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2. JESUS WEPT John 11:32-36

This is huge - Jesus shows up -God's timing
Jesus knows Lazarus would soon be raised
Jesus knew the ending of the story -
BUT - he still showed up and ENTERED - ENGAGED
Mary & Martha's present moment and WEPT WITH
THEM -

Jesus honored that moment - he cried with them
I usually say - "I am so sorry" -this is hard -
I am praying for you all - him - them - family
I am here and i am available - to help
Knowing that God will eventually redeem the pain does
not excuse us from entering the pain that exists
today - right now - with the family - with the situation
Jesus did not show up and say "stop crying"
you will understand it in a few minutes - "by & by"
He honored that moment - with them - IDENTIFICATION

3. JESUS AND THE WOMAN WHO TOUCHED HIM

Mark 5:25-34

Jesus surrounded by a crowd - already on a mission - on
his way to help Jairus's daughter -
YET HE STOPPED FOR ONE WOMAN - in the crowd
Jesus STOPPED (huge - moment - can't have a
moment any other way)
(32) "**he LOOKED** around" looked for her!
TO HER STORY -
(33) "**he LISTENED TO HER**"

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(34) “he **CALLED HER DAUGHTER**” -
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL **EXAMPLE OF A MEANINGFUL**
MOMENT - an experience of a lifetime
Jesus did not merely heal her condition
HE RESTORED HER SIGNIFICANCE
She was known by “her issue” - but no longer
identified by ‘her issue’ -
She was identified as a daughter of God Most High!
Somebody **needs to tell her that** - YOU & ME
Sometimes people need more than help - with the issue
They need to know that somebody - us - the one
helping them - actually sees them - validates them
blesses them (by presence-prayer-touch-looking at)
Getting them “whatever help needed”!

4. PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN Acts 8:26-35

God moved Philip from a major revival to go to
the desert (nowhere) - cause God had a mission for him
Philip **just goes** - obeys - follow God’s leading
Philip **sees a man** in a chariot reading Scripture
The Spirit tells Philip to **go near him** - he does
Philip **asks a question**, “Do you understand what you are
reading?”
Philip does not open with a sermon (even the truth)
Philip (1) **shows up** (only way) (2) **notices** the man

(3) **approaches** (makes the visit - the call - enter the room accept the call - make the appointment - do it!

(4) **LISTENS**

(5) **ASKS** NOTICE - APPROACH - ASK - LISTEN

(6) **RESPOND** (let the Lord lead you) - questions like — —

Do you understand/ How are you really?

Would you like some company? Do you want to talk about it? What has this been like for you?

How can I help you today?

If you need a friend - I'll be one!!!!

5. SIMON OF CYRENE Mark 15:21

Simon carried Jesus' cross for part of the journey

Simon could not prevent the crucifixion - he could not remove the entire burden

BUT for one portion of the road - he helped carry it!!!!

That may be one of the strongest pictures for us who serv

We may not be able to remove someone's burden, but we may be invited to carry it with them for a part.

This connects with **Galatians 6:2**

"Carry one another burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Notice it does not say - "Explain everyone's burdens" -= "fix everyone's burdens" - or "make their burdens disappear" it just says CARRY THEIR BURDENS -

6. THE GOOD SAMARITAN - A MOMENT THAT INTERRUPTED A SCHEDULE

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The Samaritan was traveling somewhere - He had plans responsibilities and a destination. But he recognized that the wounded man had become the most important part of that moment.

The priest and the Levite saw the same man (aware)

The difference was not awareness - the difference was **THE WILLINGNESS TO BE INTERRUPTED**

Ministry often begins as an interruption

The question is not merely, did I notice the hurting person - was aware of the need (phone call - message etc)
The question is was I willing to let their pain (situation) change my schedule?

The Samaritan did not merely feel sympathy HE ...

- (1) stopped
- (2) Went to the man
- (3) treated his wounds
- (4) put him on his animal
- (5) took him somewhere safe
- (6) paid for his continued care
- (7) promised to follow up

The Samaritan turned a roadside encounter into a significant experience in another person's life - a moment of a lifetime!!!!

he did whatever needed to get done time/money/

THOUGHTS

1. Hurting people are usually not looking for an expert
they are looking for someone who will show up and
not run away

Pain - hard things make people uncomfortable
we become afraid to say anything - we avoid the hurting
BUT - they will remember

who called - who visited - who sat beside them
who really listened - who was available to get involved
with them to get help

You don't have to have the right words - you need the
courage to show up and stay connected - present

2. a small moment can become a significant experience
Most people don't remember entire sermons etc

They remember moments that lead to life experiences

He looked me in the eye - wanted to know how i was

She sat with him after everyone else left

he called me after just to check -follow up

He remembered my situation my family

We rarely know when an ordinary interaction becomes a
defining moment in someone else's life

What feels like 10 minutes to you may become a moment
they carry for ten years.

3. PRESENCE COMES BEFORE EXPLANATION

TO often we reach to quickly for theology

Which may be right - true but the timing may be terrible

Some phrases make the hurting feel corrected rather

than cared for. Jesus wept before theology

4. MINISTRY IS NOT FIXING

not to make the person feel better - not the goal

Listen before advising

Acknowledge before explaining

Accompany before directing

Help practically before making promises

I may not know what to say but I care about you and

I am not going anywhere - this is powerful

YOU MAY NEVER KNOW THAT YOU BECAME A PART
OF SOMEONE'S SURVIVAL STORY - YOU SIMPLY
SHOWED UP - STAYED PRESENT - AND LOVED THEM
WELL.

SHOW UP move toward the hurting rather than avoid

SIT DOWN listen slow down resist the urge to fix

STAY NEAR follow up -

WE RARELY KNOW WHEN AN ORDINARY MOMENT
FOR US BECOMES A DEFINING MOMENT FOR
SOMEBODY ELSE.,

A visit that lasts 10 minutes may be remembered by
another person for the rest of their life.

This can happen when we recognize that

this moment matters

this person matters

i should not hurry past them

You may forget the conversation because it was one
moment in your day. They may remember it because it
changed the direction of theirs.