

Vineyard Values Series: Ministry

A Byproduct of Authentic Faith and Compassion Driven by Love

Opening thoughts

Vision of Vineyard Boise

To develop authentic, reproducible, Spirit-filled, Christian disciples.

Values

- Worship
- The Word
- Multiplication
- Prayer
- Ministry
- Stewardship
- Fellowship

When we define our value of ministry we categorize it two ways

Spirit led ministry – using the gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Gift of healing
- Gift of miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

Service ministries – investing ourselves in humanity.

- To the poor
- To the prisoner
- To the addict
- To other nations
- Bible study – small groups – etc.
- To every age group & gender

The most effective is when both are used congruently.

- Chad's story – Why we need both - Effective ministry requires the ability to see beyond the natural. Recognizing that pain (what needs to be ministered to) drives behavior (what causes us to push people away).

We as Christians have been commissioned to carry on the ministry of Jesus

Matthew 28 The Great Commission

18Then Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [*Don't stop until I come again*]

Some things I have learned concerning effective ministry:

1. Motive for every effective ministry must be Love!
2. The driving force behind effective ministry is authentic faith.
3. In our uniqueness we will all approach ministry differently – some through functional task while others through deep relationship.
4. Ministry is a verb and requires action – not saying “be warm and be filled.”
5. Before we have anything to give we must first receive – otherwise ministry is substituted for “social action” that is short lived & has no lasting effect.
6. Our willingness to participate in the ministry gives Jesus great joy.

Luke 10 -Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two & is filled with joy

1After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3Go! I am sending you out [*A command for action*] like lambs among wolves. 4Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.....

16"He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." 17The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure..... [*Jesus loves to witness regular people in the act of lay ministry.*]

Motive for all effective ministries must be Love

25On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do

to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

1 Corinthians 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

8 Love never fails.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan - A story of love, compassion & action

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Issue

- Everyone is wired differently some are task and some are more highly relational. For the church to be functional we need both & we need to be both.
- They say pastors have a tendency to build churches according to their personality makeup or value. The key is to gather people who will make up for your deficit.
- Often one camp will be critical of the other which limits the churches effectiveness.
- Examples:
 - Pastoral (Starbucks ministry) – Responds with feeling & emotion – weep with those who weep.
 - Small group leaders
 - Accountability group leaders
 - Prayer & contemplation – spending time alone with Jesus

- Task (Team builders & ministry doers) – Respond in action
 - Evangelism
 - Benevolence
 - Missions
 - Prayer or intercession
 - Worship

At the Home of Martha and Mary – both were serving Jesus

38As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" [One camp is often critical of the other.] 41"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

The Death of Lazarus & character differences of Mary & Martha

John 11 -

1Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. 3So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. 7Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"

9Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. 10It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." 11After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

(People always respond to ministerial people – Where love is given, love is extended.)

Two classic responses in the context of crisis - Mary & Martha

1st – Insight into Martha's natural response & reaction to crisis

20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, *she went* out to meet him, but *Mary stayed at home.* [*Notice that Martha went and Mary stayed at home in the context of giving & receiving ministry.*]

21"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." [*A statement of faith & theological understanding – A cognitive response.*] 23Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

2nd - Mary's response

28And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." [*Same statement as Martha but with an emotional response of tears.*] 33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34"Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35Jesus wept. [*Our heart of compassion has a way of moving God.*]

36Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" [*Another statement of faith*]

38Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39"Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." [*She was always practical*] 40Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" [*Both woman had faith but expressed it differently*]

41So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." [*This is the result of the ministry of Jesus that we are allowed to participate in – people are set free*]