

The Gospels doesn't simply provide doctrine. We see Jesus' actual ministry: It provides a model of ministry.

I. A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

A. This is an important story – it reveals a priority: Jesus praying

1. This was not a program – not even for other people: *V35 He went to a solitary place – He prayed*
 - a. Personal contact/communication with God
 1. Not for show: But genuinely opening ourselves to God: Speaking to/allowing to speak to us
2. You can't minister what you don't have
 - a. *1 Tim 4:16 Take heed unto yourself... You are the equipment of ministry!*
 - b. *Luke 8:46 Virtue has gone out of me... That means He had something inside – b/c He put something inside!*
3. This becomes important in the needs/battles of ministry
 - a. V39 casting out demons...later disciples would ask: Why couldn't we cast it out? Fasting/prayer...
 1. If there is a lack in our connection with God – at some point it will be revealed: Something missing

B. Common mistake: Allowing ministry to take away from relationship with God!

1. *Urgent appointments/counseling/meetings, etc.*
 - a. *Henri Nouwen: Main obstacle to love for God is service for God*
2. But Jesus shows priority: Early – first! And before ministry
 - a. *Eighty percent of pastors surveyed spend less than fifteen minutes a day in prayer.*
 - b. *Acts 6:4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

II. A PASSION FOR EVANGELISM

A. Jesus had a clear sense of purpose

1. My purpose is evangelism: *V38 this is why I have come...*
 - a. Our theology of mission: Our very purpose as believers/as the church
2. This has to be a passion – not a program! If it's a program – you will let it go
 - a. *It was inside of Him* b. *2 Cor 5:14 the love of Christ constrains/compels us...*

B. Evangelism is a central part of ministry *V38 Let us go...*

1. **The health of the church is directly connected to evangelism:**
 - a. Something outside of us/something larger than us b. The only thing that will keep on track over time
2. **Discipleship must be connected to evangelism: A disciple who doesn't evangelize is a misnomer...**
 - a. *Heart is demonstrated* b. *Skills are learned* c. *Dominion is worked out*
3. Evangelism must involve preaching: *The Gospel declared V38 that I may preach there...*
 - a. *Invitations alone are not evangelism* b. *This reveals the error of overflow/presence deeds evangelism*

C. Evangelism must be visionary: *V38 let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also...*

1. Looking for opportunities: *Where can we preach/outreach/evangelize? Other towns...*
 - a. *Where do crowds already exist?* b. *Where/how could we create a crowd?*
2. A larger vision: Jesus was stirred for places that had not been reached
 - a. *PM: Cities/nations where we have not gone/where we do not have churches*

III. BALANCED MINISTRY

A. Preaching: *V38 that I may preach there...* Ministry is all about the word of God

1. It begins with having the word inside – so we have something to declare
 - a. *Ezek 3:1 The voice said, "Son of man, eat what I am giving you--eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel.*
 1. A personal relationship + labor in the word + skill = God does more than we can do
 - a. *Mark 1:27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."*

B. Deliverance: *Mark 1:39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.*

1. True/balanced ministry should result in people being delivered
 - a. **Prayer:** Interceding for people – that they be delivered
 - b. **Preaching truth:** This is the primary means of freedom *John 8:34 the truth shall set you free*
 1. *Which means that you are thinking/praying: How are people bound? What do they struggle with? What's the answer?*
 - c. **Altar ministry:** A supernatural dimension contended for – that people touch God/are touched by God
 - d. **Personal prayer:** Make time to pray for people – something powerful about agreeing with headship
 - e. **Cast out demons:** In any setting – pray that there is a demon-casting dimension at work in you

C. If these are at work in us – God will cause our ministry to be effective

1. *Mark 1:37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."*