

The Myth & Truth About Ministry

“Case For Christ” Series, (A Study of Mark’s Gospel) part 20
March 13th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

The Myth About Ministry:

(Mark 6:7, Colossians 3:17, 1 Peter 2:9, 2; 1 Corinthians 12:27, 2 Corinthians 5:20)

The Passage About Ministry:

(Mark 6:7-30, Luke 9:1-10)

The Lessons About Ministry (then & now):

1. Live outside the ...

(Mark 6:7, Matthew 5:13-15)

2. Let the main thing be the ...

(Mark 6:12-13, Luke 10:17-20, Mark 8:36-37)

3. Look for the ...

(Mark 6:11)

- **An “open door” says ...**
- **A “closed door” says ...**

4. Let the ...

(Mark 6:12-13)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our ninth week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 6:7-30, we read and reflected on when Jesus sent the twelve disciples out to represent Him in nearby towns. This was a new experience for them and it had to have stretched them a bit.

Speaking of being stretched, what have you done that was a stretch for you?
Why did you do it? Are you glad you did it? Did you learn anything from it?
Would you do it again?

One of the ministry principles we reflected on was 'look for the open door' and not keep banging on a closed door.

Speaking of closed doors, we all probably have a 'locked door or window or locked something story' ... What comes to mind? How did you finally get what was locked ... unlocked?

Another ministry principle we reflected on was 'let the music motivate'.

Speaking of music, what is your favorite type of music?
What are a few of your favorite songs on your favorite play list?
What song do you like that might surprise most of us?

As we start to reflect on what we heard last Sunday, what was your response when you heard that "Every Jesus follower is in full-time ministry?"

What does that mean and not mean to you?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 6:7-30)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. When we think about being in full-time ministry, we can usually come up with a lot of reasons why we aren't qualified or equipped enough to do what we think it takes. Moses was a lot like us in this regard. When we read about his call to ministry, we see him trying really hard to get out of his God-given mission.

Let's read the following passages and list each of Moses' excuses along with God's response. Exodus 3:11-12, Exodus 4:1-5, Exodus 4:10-11, Exodus 4:13-16

In light of our calling to represent Jesus and be 'salt and light' to the world around us as part of our ministry, can you relate with any of Moses' excuses?

How could God's responses to Moses give someone who has similar doubts, the hope and courage God wants them to have as a minister and representer of Jesus?

2. From Mark 6, we were encouraged to let our music (loving actions) motivate others to listen to the truths God has given to us to share. Throughout history, the sacrificial love of Christians has had an incredible impact on people who don't know Jesus.

One author's brief summary of Rodney Stark's book on the tremendous growth of the early church captures how love impacted this growth:

"Stark was puzzled at how a marginalized, persecuted, often uneducated group of people were able not only to survive, but thrive ... He concludes that a key reason was their willingness to sacrifice themselves out of love for each other and for their world. This sacrifice released an explosion of light and heat the world had never known."

Shaunti Feldhahn in Y2K: The Millennium Bug

What is your initial reaction to this quote?

What are some hurdles people face in showing sacrificial love to those who don't know Jesus?

What guidelines or tips do you see in Colossians 3:23-24 and 1 Peter 2:12 that could influence our effectiveness in serving others?

3. God has given us the privilege to represent Jesus. How can the following passages add to our understanding of the ministry God desires all Christ followers to be involved in?

Matthew 9:35-38, Matthew 28:18-20

What role do you see yourself playing in the mission described in these passages?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?