

WEEK 5: DO YOU HAVE A GROWING CONCERN FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS?

Whitney: *“Meeting needs is the ways of Jesus. And those following Jesus can trace their progress in His likeness by tracking their growth in their concern for both the spiritual and temporal needs of others.”*

I. TWO FOLD MINISTRY

- A. Jesus’ ministry has a two-fold emphasis: healing bodies and teaching truth and mostly both at the same time!
- B. Same with the apostles after Pentecost: Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were **giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There **was not a needy person among them**, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was **distributed to each as any had need**.
- C. Paul and Barnabas sent to preach to the Gentiles . . . Ga 2:10 **Only, they asked us to remember the poor**, the very thing I was eager to do.
- D. James speaks of ministering in the church with both word and deeds:
 - 1. Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
 - 2. Not an emphasis on Works rather stating that saving faith always produces righteous works→there will ALWAYS be outward evidence of that inward faith

II. BIBLICAL BALANCE

- A. Christians are to be concerned both for the soul and also for the temporal needs of people
- B. Challenge to be committed to both– Tendency to be too much one or the other
- C. Too Much Temporal Works→feed the body & forget about the need to feed the soul.
- D. Giving the words of life, but don’t care enough to your basic physical needs.
- E. Most sincere can get distracted by just taking care of needs for the person and never get around to the gospel.
- F. Much Modern Missions is wasted painting churches vs building up people who the church.
- G. Strategy is to demonstrate Christlikeness and hope that it will be caught
Scripture requires Balance → feed the soul many times requires us to feed the body.
- H.
- I. **Many are gifted in ways that involve speaking and others are gifted in those things that emphasize service.**
- J. **Scripture never gives an excuse to only practice one with ever doing the other.**
 - 1. Can never just serve and work without ever speaking the gospel to others.
 - 2. Gifted Preachers are negligent to never assist in the temporal needs of his listeners

K. **Growing more like Jesus will produce more and more balance in both.**

III. JESUS TOOK CARE OF ALL THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

A. Joh 10:10 . . . I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

B. Lu 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

C. John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, **he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.**

D. **Temporal needs also**—>Mr 6:34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he **had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.**

1. “. . . And he began to teach them many things.”

2. Saw they were hungry and tired —> Mr 6:37 But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” . . .”

E. Whitney: “If we saw people from Jesus’ perspective, we would begin to see them “like sheep without a shepherd.”

1. Even the Least likely need help, If not temporal, definitely all need spiritual help

F. **IF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN US, WE CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THE SPIRITUAL AND THE TEMPORAL NEEDS OF OTHERS AROUND US.**

G. **If you are growing in Christ, you will grow quicker in your perception of those needs and not just when they become obvious.**

1. In other words, your sensibility of the needs of those around you will increase.

H. **Your maturity in Christ will be obvious in your compassion toward people.**

I. **Does NOT mean you are the answer to every identified need**

1. Lu 12:1 ¶ In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

2. **He did not heal them all**—At times He walked away to do something else.

3. **Christians also must learn that the answer to every question is NOT yes!**

IV. CHRISTIAN HEROS OF COMPASSION

A. Martin Luther – convince Roman church to start orphanages

B. George Whitfield – much of his income given to develop orphanages.

C. William Wilberforce – fought to stop slavery in Great Britain

D. William Carey - went to evangelize India, but instrumental in stopping child sacrifices and burning of widows in India

- E. George Mueller - dedicated whole life to running orphanages with only prayer.
- F. Charles Spurgeon – known as the “prince of preachers”, built homes for the elderly, ran two orphanages for the poor in London..

V. GROWING FORWARD

A. ASK JESUS TO HELP YOU SEE MORE LIKE HIM

1. He healed the blind man & gave him spiritual eyes—> He will do the same for you.
2. [2Co 4:6](#) For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
3. You are a new creation—> [2Co 5:17](#) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
4. You have spiritual vision the world does not have and you did not have before either.
5. **You have been enabled by the Holy Spirit to see inside yourself through His Word, but also to see the world like never before.**
6. NOT yet perfect– our spiritual eyes are continually being perfected.
7. **He has given you light, so go to the Great Ophthalmologist and ask Him to help you to see more.**
8. Ask Him to help you meet the needs of what He has shown you.
9. As your vision improves you will see more of the spiritual needs and the temporal needs of those that the Lord puts in your path like you have never seen them before.
10. **You will learn to look beyond the mask of self-sufficiency they wear and see the tears of “I’m so empty inside”.**
11. **Does this sound like your spiritual vision currently? If not, it is time to admit it before God and ask for more.**

B. Look for Hurt in Hearts and Homes—>Even those who look like they have it together.

1. Statistics suggest that every household in the US experience some type of crisis or significant life change every 6 months!
2. All of these are opportunities for you to serve the Lord in serving His people.
3. Ask God to show you how to look beyond the facade.
4. **Asking them if you can pray for them or how can I pray for you now.**
5. asking them to come over for a meal or watching children while they go to the store,
6. **Or sometimes don’t ask—just do it!**
7. **You commit, God is faithful to show you how and where!**

VI. DO SOMETHING! GOSPEL OR JUST GOOD WORKS FOR OTHERS

- A. **He doesn't expect for you to fix everything→ but He does expect us to find joy in Him in ministering to the needs of others for His sake.**

VII. Jesus is our example.

- A. John 13:1-17 → Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.
- B. **He found joy in what He was doing.** Remembering the joy and glory He had in heaven and looked forward to the joy that would yet come soon.
- C. **When you look to find Joy in the Lord, you will find joy in doing the work of the Lord also.**

VIII. Don't wait to feel led– go look!

- A. Get up and GO!
- B. Need is there, look for it!
- C. Go with the gospel and the love of Christ!
- D. He will guide you, He will even enable.
- E. [Php 2:13](#) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work **for his good pleasure.**
- F. **Be as a bond servant of Christ**→[Eph 6:6](#) not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing **the will** of God from the heart,
- G. Whitney: “**And as you become His instrument in meeting the needs of others, you'll find Him meeting many needs of your own.**”