

Fruitfulness on the Frontline Ministering Grace and Love

Introduction

When we meet Jesus, we are fundamentally changed, and there are some new truths about us.

- Seated with Christ – Colossians 3:1
- New Creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Heirs to the Father – Romans 8:17
- Children of the Father – 1 John 3:1
- Members of a Royal Priesthood – 1 Peter 2:9

Priests have the job of ministering.

We are talking about how we are ministers of grace and love.

We need some definitions:

- Minister: serve, give to
- Love: care for, affection, focus on someone
- Grace: God's empowering presence (Gordon Fee)

When we are ministering love, it can only happen because of grace.

When we are ministering grace, it can only happen because of love.

Ministering Love

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25–37

- Ministering begins with something significant

1 John 4:19 (ESV): “We love because he first loved us.”

We can only be effective as a Minister of love and grace when we know we are loved first.

Ministering Grace

We can minister love because of His grace that empowers us.

Jesus ministered love to us because He was empowered by grace – by the Spirit that brought Him out of the wilderness in power, and never left Him during his ministry.

Sometimes we can minister love out of what we have – the Samaritan.

God calls us to do that, to have eyes to see where there is need.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” Then the

righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

- Matthew 25:35–40 (ESV)

Ministering Grace: Acts 3:1–10

"And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay."

- Matthew 10:7–8 (ESV)

Jesus didn't just come to get us to heaven, He taught us to pray that heaven would break in to here.

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"

- Matthew 6:9-10

It's not about ministering grace *OR* love – it is about both and about paying attention to God when He prompts us to minister.

Encouragement Card Activation

- Take the card from your KBC News.
- Spend two minutes beginning a letter
- Include something tangible – a gift – cash, a flower, a gift card, a photo...
- Finish it at home

You can only give away what you have.

Discussion Questions

Refer to your Fruitfulness on the Frontline study guide for group discussion.