Honorable Ministry

1 Corinthians 8:16-24

1. Intro
   1. Last week:
      1. If my people…Humble themselves, pray and seek the face of God, and repent
      2. Then: He will hear, forgive, and heal
   2. We celebrate God’s promises and His faithfulness
   3. Today we talk about the gospel, and the gospel is the answer
      1. In our text, Titus has been a genuine minister of the gospel
      2. And we are introduced to another, yet nameless person, who is famous for the gospel.
2. Text
   1. Vv 16-17: The ministry of presence, and love…also gospel ministry
   2. V 18: unnamed person who is famous for the preaching of the gospel
      1. Commentaries speculate on this, say its Luke maybe
      2. But the point is, it is the gospel not the person, that makes the difference
   3. V 19: he is a part of the group that carries out the act of grace
   4. Vv 20-21: Aim for that which is honorable
      1. They gave generously and sacrificially
      2. For a greater cause than anyone fully understands
   5. V 22: confidence comes through experience in the gospel ministry
      1. You will not gain confidence in gospel ministry by sitting on your couch wondering what to do
      2. When you pray for God to open doors, walk through them, and find the ministry God has placed before you.
   6. Vv 23-24
      1. Partners and messengers for the Glory of Christ
      2. We join together in ministry and God honors that effort
3. Point

Mark 2:1-5 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

* 1. The Ministry of Presence
     1. Sometimes, just being there is enough
     2. The heart of the gospel is that Jesus is the only way
        1. Yet this message is better received when one is in relationship with a believer
        2. The relationship aspect builds up and advances the gospel
        3. But it needs to be honest
     3. Honesty in ministry relationships means you communicate that you are in this together, no matter what
     4. If someone accepts or rejects, ministers of the gospel are still present
     5. Sometimes, just being there as a believer is enough
        1. A believer that is there with a person in the midst of a trial, means that there is peace
        2. A believer that is PRESENT and active in ministry Is a part of the gospel ministry.
     6. Sometimes we are called to grab a corner of a mat and carry our part
     7. Sometimes we are called to dig a hole in the roof
     8. And sometimes we are called to sit on a couch and cry wit someone who needs us there.
     9. The ministry of presence is seen clearly in the foster care system.
  2. The Ministry of Proclamation
     1. Proclamation is more effective when we also experience the joy of presence
     2. We minister to one another and serve with one another by the power of God
        1. In this passage we see preaching
        2. And the church is referred to as messengers
        3. This is a powerful ministry model!
     3. That leads to a successful ministry of proclamation.
     4. What is known about this person who proclaims in verse 18?
        1. They are famous for the proclamation of the gospel
        2. They are known because of the gift God has given
     5. What is not important? Unknown?
        1. Their name. Their position. Their pedigree.
        2. We don’t know who this person is because that is not what is important.
     6. We know that the proclamation of the gospel is powerful, not because of the flesh and blood that is proclaiming, but because the flesh and blood that was sacrificed!
     7. We are to make much of Jesus, and unleash HIS story on a world that needs hope.
  3. The Ministry of Partnership
     1. We really are all in this together
     2. The partnership of the ministry is a vital element in the ministry.
     3. Each person called, gifted, and equipped for the ministry of the gospel
        1. Serve in your role as a part of the body
        2. But this partnership is not to bring glory to the organization, but to the savior.
        3. The only thing we have to offer is Christ sacrificed, and that changes the world
           1. It brings hope
           2. It brings righteousness
           3. It brings relationship
           4. It brings reverence
           5. It brings selflessness
           6. It brings joy
           7. It brings peace
     4. We serve because of the ministry Christ placed before us
     5. We serve because it is in our new nature as believers
     6. We partner with other believers into a supernatural organization called the church
        1. We depend upon Christ
        2. And we depend upon one another
        3. We partner in the gospel!

1. Close