

Primary Source Ministry

Part 2: Ministry out of Identity

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NOVEMBER 18TH, 2018

Full Text (for reading on your own)

Expectation (from Joe)

Have you ever been to a sporting event or Disney World? If so, did you go to pay for overpriced concessions? When we come to church our expectation should be for an encounter with God. To come to church without that expectation is like going to a sporting event or Disney World for the overpriced concessions and then leaving before the main event.

Speak to the Rock (from Megan)

Moses struck the rock first and water came out. Then Moses was supposed to speak to the rock so that water would come out. Jesus was pierced and water came out ... so that we speak now and receive His blessings!

A Reformation Season

Since last December (2017) I've had a vision developing in me around decentralization in the church. My friend Brian Orme alerted me to this trend and asked when the church was going to catch-up. Uber doesn't have a car. Air B&B has no buildings. I understand what took Yellow Taxi 50 years to scale to Uber scaled to in 5 years!

There is a prophesied billion soul harvest coming to the church and I believe the Lord is working in a new wineskin and I am not the only one. Many prophets are speaking about a reformation starting in the church.

I believe there was a revolution that has led into this reformation. The revolution has felt like "shaking." If you are not aware of the shaking I am talking about all you have to do is listen to CNN and Fox News concurrently with each other and it will create seismic waves in your mind!

There has been a shaking and I see President Trump at the spearhead of that shaking. Things like Brexit have been in line with that. It is important to be able to discern the times and the seasons - what God's doing in the times and the seasons. The sons of Issachar didn't just prophecy God's word, but also the timing of God's word. I believe we are in a reformation season.

I read somewhere recently that God works at two speeds: slowly and suddenly!

He's like that. There has been a slow build at Agathos over these years. Many times we've thought "aren't we going to come out of the basement at some point?" Our space had been renovated very nicely but still wondered when we were going to come out of the basement! Interestingly our intercessors often prayed about us not "birthing it" too soon. Interestingly, once we moved into this space in October I felt the Lord's lead to release this vision.

Late this summer I woke up with a strong sense: "I want a church with *no* ministries ..." So I spent a month studying 137 scriptures in the NT about ministers and ministries to try to find the place that showed me what I was thinking was not scriptural. I didn't find it. What God was moving in my heart was that I want a church with no ministries - just ministers.

The first Reformation (500 years ago) was about people being able to read the Bible for themselves. Maybe this one is about you being able to minister for yourself. I don't know for sure. I've been asking God "what's this one about."

In a reformation season we have to remember that if we do things the way we've always done we will always get what we've always got. We have to approach things differently.

We have been prophetically called to be a prototype church (in 2013 and repeated by someone who did not know that original prophecy just a month ago - in Oct. 2018). One of the keys to prototyping is the willingness to make mistakes. A manufacturing mindset says "let's make no defects." R&D mindset says "let's do something new together."

We are not just doing something new to do something new, but instead because we feel called to do something new. There's a prophetic history for our church about this decentralized thing. In 2013 that same prophet that called us a prototype church also expressed a decentralization of our ministry in so many words. He said he could see it but was struggling to describe it with words. He said we would move in multiple places but still be in formation.

I was talking with Dr. Bill Bennot from South Africa and he said "so what you guys are doing is leading a church more from relationship and core values than a mission statement." We are moving together out of or from a set of core values.

Workers need a mission statement.

Workers need a job description. Sons minister out of a set of core values.

Sons & Daughters more than Workers

I've worked in education for years. There are certain teachers that have something extra. So much so that I've come to recognize that the extra that those teachers have is not even on the same continuum of what most teachers are operating in. You see, you will never find a teacher that has that extra that is just operating based on a job description.

Somehow the identity as an educator has settled into their hearts and often they are generational. "My momma was a teacher, my dad was a teacher, my grandmother was a teacher..." You start to notice that this extra gear that they have is because they have tapped into an *identity* as an educator instead of just doing a *job* as a teacher.

Job description never produces what identity produces. When people don't have an identity you need to give them a job description so they do the right sorts of things.

If you are a hiring agent you know this difference: you hire workers (for whom you need to define their role) and then you hire game changers (with whom you work to help identity what they are called to do). Some people call it "making a role" for someone. Others say "get the right person on the bus and find their seat later." If they have the core values - if they have the identity - it produces a whole different set of results.

Dichotomies and Definitions

Word and definitions define culture. I was recently at a millennial type restaurant (I think I'm one of them!) and I overheard 2 young ladies talking and one of them gave a new definition to a word. I forget the specific word. She said "to me that word means THIS..." I thought "that's funny because that's not what the word means." She then proceeded to say "and I think I like spelling it THIS way ..."

If you change vocabulary you'll change culture.

This is why the enemy works through the perversion of things. So instead of just saying that God made them male and female now we have different genders? From someone who was a biology teacher, it is an oddity that so many that espouse science can say something so unscientific. There is an X and a Y chromosome. Boys and girls. I learned it in 6th grade science! We love everyone but we don't need to be confused.

Shape the vocabulary, shape culture.

God is giving me vocabulary type things about this reformation. A great way to clarify new vocabulary is through synonyms and antonyms. It's THIS not THAT.

The Kingdom more than Church. “The Church serves the Kingdom. The Kingdom does not serve the church. Welcome to church, a church of the Kingdom.”

The week more than Sunday. “Sunday service is not the pinnacle of the expression of this body of believers. Sunday is like a practice and Monday - Saturday is like the game.”

Sunday service is to equip. One of the things the church has struggled with (at large) is that if we are centralized then the only ministry you can do is the pastor’s ministry / the church’s ministry. Trust me, you don’t want my ministry and I don’t want yours. I want you to have YOUR ministry because your ministry is specific to you. So the 5-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher) are for equipping the saints for their work of ministry.

While I am highlighting differences ... if our value begins to be placed AT ALL in what our church is doing we are sorely missing something far more valuable! Jesus had no need than any man should testify of Him (John 2). God spoke to me about a year ago and said “Peter, I am going to show you how ‘this is My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased’ satisfies every hunger.” All the hunger goes away - for anything else. All the striving. All of it goes away when you are satisfied as a beloved son in whom He is well pleased. All of it goes away.

Most of the world is working towards identity. God is saying “receive your identity and then you will be allowed to work.” Jesus did no miracles until He came out of the desert ... and He didn’t go into the desert until He had His identity. What was at stake in the desert was His identity and then He came out in the power of the Holy Spirit because He had held onto His identity.

The Spirit is on sons, not slaves. The Spirit is on sons, not workers. Now I know that Luke 10:2 tells us to pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send out laborers / workers into His harvest. The word “workers” there is from the Greek “ergon” and Jesus shows us in John 3 that we should seek for our works (our “ergon”) to be done IN GOD.

Connection more than Preparation

We tend to think of ministry as a “what” not realizing ministry is Someone to be with. John 15 is clear - if you abide in the vine, you will produce fruit. We keep trying to do ministry as though it were some sort of job description ... as though it was something “out here to go do” not realizing that if we would abide in Him we would naturally produce fruit.

Do you remember Mary and Martha? Jesus said Mary had chosen the ONE necessary thing. Which other necessary thing do you have in order to be able to minister? I believe Mike Bickel says that worshipers / lovers will always get done more than workers.

Jesus knew the word inside and out but He stayed connected to His Father. That's where His power came from.

In John 5:39-40 Jesus said *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."* Even our time in the word is to meet the **Word** - Jesus. Try this: when you get in the word say "Jesus, I want to meet with YOU, I want to have an encounter with You." We live in an upside down Kingdom. Studying the scriptures academically can be debilitating spiritually. You are not able to understand the scriptures. Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance everything that Jesus said. This priority produces something different in our personal ministries.

Imagine you had just ministered to someone. Think of it in your imagination. Now think "what did I minister to them?" Once you have your answer read on ...

Many believers are ministering the Bible to people. I want to minister Jesus to people!

If I read the Bible academically I will minister the Bible to people. If I read the Bible relationally I will minister my Savior to people.

Paul's gospel was not in words but in power. He was aware who He was carrying - Who was walking with Him. Father is walking with you into every situation in which you walk. Jesus "Look, you will find that I am with you always!"

The Anointing and the Glory

There are two phases of our walk with God and I think we sometimes get these confused.

There is an anointing that comes upon you for ministry. Do you know this? When you acknowledge Jesus before men He will acknowledge you before the angels and then the angels will show up to minister when you minister!

So I often ask for a spirit of revelation (Eph. 1) to minister with me. What's a spirit of revelation? That's an angel! It's not a concept! So I ask for that spirit to minister with me. As I acknowledge Jesus before men He acknowledges me before the angels and then the angels are dispatched to minister with me. That's called the anointing. The anointing is always for ministry (see Isa. 61). I'm sure you've felt this before. You step out to minister to someone and all of a sudden you have supernatural scripture recall, the right words, boldness to pray, etc.

When you acknowledge God before men, He will acknowledge you before the angels and the angels will come and back you up!

That's the anointing. That's different than the glory. I heard Bill Johnson talk about this recently and thought "that is so right!"

The glory is what Jesus experienced on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter messed it up. He saw the glory and said "let's build something." Glory's not for building. What did Jesus hear again on the Mount of Transfiguration? "You are My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

That was the glory. He was transformed. He was transfigured.

The anointing comes in ministry when you STEP OUT before men. The glory comes when you STEP IN with God! They are not the same thing. The hunger in my heart is to have more of the glory than the anointing.

From Megan: Moses told God "don't send us out unless Your presence goes with us." Right after that Moses says to God "show me Your glory." This is what Pete is talking about. They were going to go into the promised land. This is something that the Lord has given to them. This is US in our ministry. The Lord has a promised land for you and He will go with us. But the glory of the Lord is what Moses then goes after. God covers Moses with His hand and passes by, but Moses SEES His glory! That's the better thing. That's the pearl of Great Price - Him!

From Peter again: The anointing so-to-speak was there in Pharaoh's court but the glory is what happens in the personal time.

Jesus had this. In Luke 4:36 we see that the people were amazed by Jesus they were "*all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For **with authority and power** He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.*" They thought to themselves "He's not like the scribes!" The scribes were like academic theology professors. The ones writing books about God. "*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*" Some are willing to talk about God but not willing to come to Him!

Jesus might have been ministering the same scriptures as the scribes but the people could clearly perceive a difference: He has EXOUSIA authority! (Exousia is the Greek). What is that? The authority of a son, the authority of a daughter. It's a set of core values that you hold in connection with the heart of the Father. It's not a job description.

Jesus had authority through intimacy. Intimacy multiplies authority. When the loaves and the fishes came into CONNECTION with Jesus they were multiplied!

Representing Our Father

Read John 17:4 “I have glorified You on the earth. ***I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.***” Does this come before or after Jesus died? Before!

On your own - before continuing reading - consider that scripture above. How can that be? Jesus has not died on the cross but He has finished the work that God has given Him to do? What’s the work He’s talking about?

Jesus finished the work God had given Him to do before He went to the cross. I am not downplaying the cross. I started service today by saying “I plead the blood of Jesus over all of us.” 100%.

But Jesus had finished the works (the ergon) God had given Him to do before He went to the cross. Why? What works?

I would propose to you that Jesus believed that representing His Father was the work that He had been given to do. John 14:9 says “... *He who has seen Me has seen the Father ...*”

After Jesus says He has finished the work God has given Him to do we read in 17:5 “*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*” Look at that ... glorify, glory! It comes from the transfiguration process away with God! There is an anointing that will come upon you when you STEP OUT. If you want more anointing in your ministry, you have to STEP OUT. I heard someone say recently that the biggest key to seeing people raised from the dead when you pray for them is to pray for dead people. There’s an anointing that comes when you step out.

I was recently at a hotel checking in and talked with the lady behind the counter. (One of the things you can do is to just start asking everyone you see that you are going to have a minute with how their day has been). So I asked her “how’s your day going.” She says “Oh pretty good!” I said “well, great.” She says “well, OK ... well if this ear ache would go away it would be a lot better.” I said “really?!” She says “and if it wasn’t swimmers’ ear ... it hurts even to touch it!”

For some reason it was stirring faith in me. It sounded a bit like she was complaining on the outside but on the inside it felt like she had faith for healing ... “IF ONLY!” It was pulling on me.

I got to this point where I had this thought “do you want to feel bad for the next 30 minutes that you didn’t decide to pray for her?” :)

The Lord softly nudges me “do you want to take care of this right now or do you want to think about it for the next 30 minutes?”

I said “hey, can I pray for you? I am still learning but often people I pray for are healed instantly.” She said “OK great.” I said “here I will grab your hand. Put your other hand on your ear.” I prayed. I spoke to that ear about the work of Christ. I prayed for about 20 seconds. At the end of praying I felt the Lord say “say immediately” as in “pain go immediately.” I thought “I don’t want to do the immediately word.” So I didn’t.

So I was done praying and I asked her “does it feel any different? Don’t be nice.”

She says “no it doesn’t feel any different.” I say “even if you tug on it!?” She immediately tugged on it and says “it doesn’t hurt like before!” I said “Praise God - that’s awesome!”

I didn’t say “immediately” but once she did an “immediate” it was healed!

So Jesus represented the Father. That’s what His job was. 2 verses after He said the work the Father had given Him to do was done He says this *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world ...”* The name of God is always synonymous with the reputation of God and the reputation of God always speaks to His nature. Jesus had manifested who the Father was to men! John 14:9 *“... He who has seen Me has seen the Father ...”*

Matthew 11:27 *“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”*

Father revealed to me + Me (a son) revealed to the World = Ministry!

The glory (in the prayer closet) + the anointing (stepping out in public) = Ministry!

Erin was reading a story from Blake Healy who had an encounter with an angel while walking in a rough neighborhood at night. He saw this angel (which he is very normal for him) and he could tell the angel wanted him to follow him. He followed this angel down to a house and Blake could see there was an enormous amount of darkness there - scary. While he was looking at it and really hoping the angel was not going to tell him to go there, the angel brings out a huge sword in the spirit and slashes at something and the darkness over that house goes! Blake looked at it and looks at the angel and says “so why did you need me?” The angel laughs and says “I’m not allowed to come here without you.”

God needs our partnership to release anything in the earth. He doesn’t do anything except by declaring it through His prophets. The Word of God spoken through the prophets of God became the Son of God!

Ministry is WHO, not WHAT

Ministry is WHO not WHAT. Ministry is always an issue an identity. Remember the hired hand vs. the son? What a different result! You cannot get through a hired hand and a job description what you can get through a son or a daughter.

The whole world is eagerly awaiting the revealing of the sons of God. The world is not eagerly awaiting the revealing of the workers of God. I know Luke 10:2 says to pray that God would send out laborers into the harvest. I'm just saying God wants His laborers to be sons.

Ministry is WHO not WHAT. We think that God is asking us to do a WHAT with ministry. And He is saying "I want to make you a WHO."

What did Jesus tell His first disciples? "Follow Me and I will make you BECOME fishers of men."

Jesus didn't say follow Me and I will teach you how to fish for men. He said "if you follow Me, I will change your identity into BEING a fisher of men!"

This is what I am after and this is what I feel like the Lord is after. He does not minister out of WHAT, He ministers out of WHO.

He forms identity in Christ and says "You are My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" and THEN says "now minister."

What was Jesus' ministry? To reveal the Father! Well you better be a son to reveal the Father! The Father is saying to us "will you represent Me?"

There's a type of worker that can stock shelves but there is a whole different type of worker that you send as your representative to a foreign land to do business on your behalf.

God will work with anything we will give Him and He would work with lemons to make lemonade. So I am not saying He doesn't want laborers; I am just saying He wants the laborers to be sons! I would propose to you that what God is after in this season is that He is wanting sons and daughters to be raised up in their identity as ministers so that His children would be the ones representing Him!

The earth is awaiting the revealing of sons and daughters, not just workers. It's sons and daughters who bring the culture and heartbeat of Heaven into the earth. That's what the Father is after.

You can say all the best things without the right heart vs. you can say so-so things with the Father's heart and it will actually impart power.

Diving a little bit Deeper

Most of us know we are loved by God. There is always more to discover there. If we are not filled with the fullness of God in our lives there is more of His love to discover (Eph. 3). So, hallelujah I've not arrived!

Many of us know that we are a son or daughter of God. He said "I will be to you a Father and you will be to Me a son." He always initiates. Who He is determines who we are.

But do you know that you are well pleasing to God? This was part of the identity package that Jesus received before starting His ministry.

If we are going to ministers not just workers in centralized ministries, then I want you guys to be empowered as ministers. Knowing that you are well pleasing to the Father is part of what empowers for ministry. It's part of the package. It was part of the package for Jesus. I think it has to be part of the package for us.

For years I've read Psalm 139 and said "I'm fearfully and wonderfully made, praise God!" I've taken it by faith. It's never actually fully settled into my heart to be honest with you. When you have a scripture that doesn't fully settle, don't feel bad - just keep it before God. He'll get you there.

I realized the reason it hadn't fully settled is because I was viewing that scripture through another lens - the world's lens which I was still operating in. But we are not supposed to be conformed to the world but be transformed by renewing our minds!

What am I getting at? What makes you pleasing to the world?

It's what you can give to them.

That may sound like too harsh of an assessment but it's totally right. I'm not saying there is not love in the world but love is from God. Unless someone has been transformed they won't have true love.

The entire world is operating under a lust system. 2 Peter 1 says it. And you are able to escape the corruption that's in the world and the corruption that's in the world is due to lust. Lust says "I'm going to GET from you." "I love you because of what you can give to me - because of what I can get from you."

When you are raised in that system, which we all have been, and this is why your mind really needs to be renewed ... your value is based in what you can give to others.

The question the Lord recently posed to me during a prayer time was "Peter, what makes you pleasing to Me?"

If you are like me, then what you thought makes you pleasing to God is what you can do for Him. "Yeah that doesn't sound right when you say it like that ..." but it is what many of us think like.

"But God, if that's the world's system and it's not your system, what does make me pleasing to you?"

About a year ago I heard the Lord tell me "the beauty of Heaven is humility." I thought "wow, that's interesting." There's a different beauty system there. We have to think like Heaven.

What's humility? God gives grace to the humble.

God spoke to me in that prayer time recently and said "do you know what makes you pleasing to Me Peter? When you receive from Me."

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Why? Faith receives. Humility receives. that's why humility is so beautiful to God.

The world's system is that your value - your "pleasingness" - is based on what you can give. God's system is "how pleasing you are is based on how much you receive."

All of your success in your walk with God is based completely on what you've received from Him. Every good and perfect gift is from above. The more you receive in the Lord the more successful your walk with God is - and the more pleasing you are to Him.

If we don't have this (see above) something very bad is going to happen. We will go to God for empowerment for ministry so that we can go try to do things "out here" to be pleasing.

God is saying "you don't need to do that."

Just go to Him and you don't need to do anything to be pleasing. And what will flow out of that is true ministry. You'll actually really represent your Father.

When we think ministry is WHAT we're going to do we will sabotage the process of becoming WHO He has for us to be.

Mark Crawford says it this way: "we are human beings, not human doings."

Activation

It feels like I am going after something - trying to kill something. That's what this message feels like in me. I am trying to kill something that is trying to disfigure your relationship with God.

If you don't get this, the enemy has you hoodwinked. God has been freeing me of this for years and has been freeing all of us for years. But TODAY I felt like God was going to do one drop in a bucket

that caused waves to go out through everything. I feel like this one revelation is that drop in the bucket. I've shared a lot of things here but I am really just trying to get at this one thing.

He is after representatives of Him. He is after sons and daughters. He is not after workers.

Newsflash: God is NOT using you.

You are not some cog in some machine called the "Gospel Kingdom Machine."

THAT'S SICKENING.

I am speaking with the heart of the Father: "that's sickening."

Jacob is doing a video for our new space. We were talking ahead of time about how it should be. I told him "have you ever seen a profile picture for a young woman on Facebook and think 'oh honey, why'd you do that?'" The Father's heart, you know? Now If I had a daughter I would want her to put a very beautiful picture up because she would be very beautiful. But I just wouldn't want her picture to want something. We're beautified by what we receive from God and then we are very beautiful but is our beauty then still wanting something? Or do we have our something?

I feel like for some of you something might be burning inn your heart right now. If so, I just want to bless what's burning in your heart right now. Freedom in Jesus' Name! That ministry would not be a WHAT it's a WHO. I bless your identity as a minister!

If you receive from God and if you release it, then you are ministering. What you hear in your ear, declare on the rooftops!

Let me give you 3 examples if you think you are not prepared to minister. It is about connection. If you've received something from God, that's what equips you to minister.

Do you remember the guy with 1000 demons? Imagine a guy with 1000 demons comes to church and one of you lay hands on them, the 1000 demons go, the pigs run down the hill. That guy said "please Jesus let me come with you. I want to be with you. I want to learn from you." Jesus said "no, go back to your town and tell them all the things God's done for you." That was a 1 day turn around and that guy was a minister. That's not how the church normally does it! I'm releasing that to you. That's our Lord who's doing that!

Do your remember the woman at the well? Jesus reads her mail. What was it? 5 husbands and the one she was with now wasn't her husband? She goes into town "come see a man who told me all the things I've ever done!" The towns people knew the sort of things she was talking about. They had been watching what she had been doing for years - and probably gossiping about her. Yet she was so

excited about her encounter with Jesus that she said “come see a man who told me all I’ve ever done!”

Or the guy that was born blind in John 9. Do you remember what he said? Do you remember how good his theology was? They said “who is this who healed you?” He says “I think He’s a prophet.” Finally he just ends with “I don’t know ... all I know is I was blind and now I see.”

God is not asking you to minister who you will be. He’s saying “minister who you already are.” Seek Him for a greater testimony but release the one you’ve got!

He doesn’t want a program; He wants you.

You are His choice minister.

You ... YOU ... are His choice minister.

Father, we receive that in the Name of Jesus.