

FRUITFUL VISITATION

Text: Mark 1:9-35

INTRODUCTION:

The question is not, “How can I do it...but how did Jesus do it?” It’s His ministry we are carrying out...day to day...week to week...and it must be His heart that is communicated in our visits each week. There are two underlying views of visitation—I must visit my class because of my workers’ commitment...or I am privileged to be God’s touch in someone’s life today. Instead of coming Himself, God is sending me in His place! The second view must be our heart motivation...being God’s hand to someone in need. The second will keep me faithful, while the first will frustrate me. In Mark 1 Jesus made four different visits.

1. He called the lost. (Mark 1:15-18)

Jesus was a soulwinner. Some of the best soulwinning opportunities will come “as you are walking.”

Principles for fruitful soulwinning visits:

- Pray and seek God’s balance for compassion and boldness.
- When possible make an appointment—with door-knocking this isn’t possible.
- Take tracts and tools that will help —cassettes, videos, etc.
- Find the common thread to turn the conversation toward Christ (Sunday’s message? church background? common life directions?).
- Share God’s Word, your heart, and your testimony.
- Don’t give up if salvation doesn’t happen the first time.
- Write a kind reminder note as the Lord leads.
- Follow up with materials—books, tapes, pamphlets.

2. He taught the hungry. (Mark 1:21-22)

Jesus taught those who would listen. Those who wanted and needed the Word of God. As you serve, there will be those who need to be taught. As you visit, there will be those who need to know something you know...some promise...some truth...some Bible nourishment that will help them take the next step.

Principles for effective teaching visits:

- Pray for God’s wisdom in teaching His heart on the matter.
 - Go with purpose – God’s purpose laid on your heart.
 - When possible, make an appointment.
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- Think through materials that will be needed—baptism, new growth, discipleship, eternal security, some other issue?
- Have an “I care” attitude not an “I know” attitude.
- Try to enlist this person into Sunday school or discipleship.
- Allow the person to ask questions...ask them questions.
- Apply the truth to their lives, personally.
- Write a note to remind of the truth.

3. **He reprovved the wandering.** (Mark 1:23-28)

Though this was not the majority of Jesus’ ministry, it was part of it. Occasionally, a visit will be made to a teen who is seriously wandering, dangerously dabbling and perhaps flippant, spiritually, toward God.

Principles for effective reprovving visits:

- Don’t go looking for these types of visits.
- Pray for God’s heart of compassion and wisdom with what to say—Jesus’ rebuke brought results, not just idle, prideful positioning!
- Hate the sin but love the sinner—Jesus rebuked the demon but loved the man.
- Speak with compassion, but do spiritual warfare with your spirit.
- Stay in the battle until you see a decision point, for good or bad.
- Share materials, tools, items that the Lord might use to bring a turn.
- Write notes of prayer and encouragement
- Be willing to let go and let God be in control (II Timothy 1:20). You cannot control the free will of another.

4. **He ministered to the sick.** (Mark 1:29)

Jesus ministered to those who were sick. He went to them, touched them, communicated His grace with them, and lifted them. It may not be possible to physically heal someone, but do what Jesus did in every other respect. You can go to them, know of their illness, take their hand, and lift their spirit. Most often, you will be ministered to more than you minister.

Principles for effective ministering visits:

- Know the purpose for going.
 - Pray for wisdom in words and help to minister grace.
 - Share God’s Word – promises, hopeful passages, comforting verses.
 - Share a gift – size doesn’t matter.
 - Listen—take time to sit and talk.
 - Rejoice in hope! (Romans 5:1-5)
 - Communicate the pastor’s and church’s love.
 - Pray with the person; ask for God’s grace, comfort, strength, and presence.
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