

MINISTRY MODEL - JESUS

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Scripture references: Matthew 10:7-10, John 14:10,
Acts 1:1 – 8; 10:38, James 1:22

For a number of years now the Lord has been revealing to me just how *wrong* most ministry models are in the church today. There are a number of reasons for this but the main reason is homiletics. Homiletics is something that you learned in seminary – it is the art of preaching. The word was first used in 1830 but the problem began long before this date. In fact, it began shortly after the birth of the Church in the middle of the first century. How do I know? We see the effects in Paul's ministry and writings.

Now I'm not against anything that will help people but you must understand that homiletics is something taught by men – not by the spirit of God. Elijah never enrolled in seminary nor did he take a homiletics class. One of my favorite preachers is Dr. Charles Stanley. I remember Dr. Stanley saying one time: —I'm not against a person going to seminary. If you want to get some tools that will help you in ministry that's fine. But as far as it helping you know God better it has absolutely nothing to do with it. That is the truth.

I remember when I first enrolled in Baptist Seminary--I realized quickly that the professors didn't know God very well. Any type of education can be beneficial to a person but normally, unless it's spiritual education by a person who knows God better than you do, it won't improve your God I.Q. quotient.

You see my brother and sister, homiletics may help you deliver a sermon but if it's not anointed by the Spirit of God then it will have no lasting spiritual effect! It's the anointing that makes the difference. Sadly today most sermons are as Jimmy Swaggart once described them: —Just giving a book report. Many are purchased off the internet —to save time. What nonsense! Is that true ministry? Is that the model of ministry Jesus used or that He approves of?

The Bible is our pattern for ministry; if you want a truly powerful ministry (and God's called you to a ministry even though it might not be a Five-fold anointing)

then you should study from the Scriptures the lives of the men and women the Lord chose to understand how and why the Lord chooses people and how He expects them to minister for Him.

In 1989 in Akure, Nigeria, the Lord said to me: —Many are called but few are chosen and the reason they're not chosen is because they're not willing to pay the price. You see this pattern with Jesus in those He chose for ministry. There is a price to pay for any ministry and the anointing by the Spirit—the devil is going to contest you.

Recently I watched a few minutes of one of the many —conferences on television and it was nothing more than a lecture on psychology with no anointing and no power. Sadly, this has become the ministry model that we observe the most in churches and ministries today and this is not what the Lord intended. This is not the ministry model Jesus displayed nor that of the Twelve He chose. It is not the ministry model of Elijah, Elisha, Paul and many other real ministry models that we have from the Scriptures so why is it in vogue? Do you think it's because the Holy Spirit doesn't care which ministry model a person follows? The sad fact is, my brothers and sisters, most of what you see in ministry today is the work of religious spirits and explains why the Lord said to me in October, 1991, —The Church is not being led by the Holy Spirit; it's being led by religious spirits.

You see, a religious spirit makes you think you're doing something for God when in fact you may be acting contrary to His Word and will. This is amply demonstrated today—and it's been so for some time—with all the myriad of ministry and church conferences.

In 1990 I had returned to the States from a ministry trip to North Africa and while going through my mail that had arrived while I was gone for months I began thumbing through *Charisma* magazine. On almost every page there was an advertisement for a church or ministry conference. I noticed one in particular in Dallas with a —special room rate at the Hyatt Regency for \$139 a night. I thought to myself: —For \$139 a night for 5 days plus the \$200 registration fee I could feed a pastor's family in Nigeria for a whole year. At that point the Spirit spoke and said: —The world's going to hell and all those churches are doing is having conferences.

My brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit doesn't instruct you to go against the Word of God nor the ministry models God gave us in the Scriptures. So why are all these people charging for conferences and meetings today? That's when He enlightened

my spirit to know that this is the work of religious spirits—not the Holy Spirit—frankly, He doesn't endorse 90% of all these conferences—they're held for financial reasons and not because He told them to.

I was at a large church in Virginia a few years ago and was told about one of the major ministries you would all know that came to that church. Naturally, their conference entailed a stiff registration fee. Before the meeting started the pastor and elders were instructed to lock the doors so nobody could get in that hadn't paid. Sadly, they did so and the gentlemen and workers who were busy parking cars for the meetings were not even allowed to enter the sanctuary! Is this Jesus' ministry model? Did He charge a registration fee for His meetings? Perhaps that is why they had to chop a hole in the ceiling to lower the paralyzed man down—Jesus had locked the doors to keep out those who hadn't paid to hear Him speak. Do you find in the Book of Acts or in Paul's epistles where he, Silas or Timothy charged for the famous Mars Hill Conference? No, Jesus Himself stated unequivocally:

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give.

9 Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; **10** no wallet for *your* journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff: for the laborer is worthy of his food. Matthew 10:7-10

You're not supposed to charge for the Gospel my brothers and sisters. Let's get back to the ministry model that Jesus demonstrated—a ministry of power and compassion for the weak, sick and dying. Let's trust the Lord to provide the finances and other material things we need to do the work of the ministry without corrupting ourselves like most of —Christian television has done. Let's —be doers of the Word and not hearers only and then we won't be deceived (James 1:22) by religious spirits. Can you say amen?