

Marks of an effective personal ministry

Acts 9:32-43

In our article two weeks ago we talked about the great influence that Peter had, and the large crowds he was able to preach to. Peter knew what it was like to preach to the masses, like on the day of Pentecost, when 3,000 accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. No matter how large his ministry was, Peter, one of God's noblest men, took time to minister to individuals. In our passage today, we will see another side of Peter's work as a servant, as he focusses on two separate events that involved a person being ministered to. You may wonder, "Why is it important that we all have an effective personal ministry?" Why was Peter so successful in his efforts? Today, we will try to answer these questions.

Lots of people today talk the talk when it comes to our Christian service, but few walk the walk. Peter was successful first of all because he was involved. If you take the time to read verses 32 & 33 we see Peter living life in one of the most important venues servanthood has to offer. As Peter was traveling through Lydda, he came into contact with Aeneas,



JUST A THOUGHT
Rev. Tom Mansbarger



who had been sick with palsy for eight years. By the authority of Jesus, when Peter spoke, he was healed on the spot. The early Christians realized that the most important work they could do was outside the confines of the church itself. Peter wasn't an office man who spent his time with administrative issues. He was out and about involved in true service to the King. He was a mover, which made it easy for God to direct him.

Those actively involved in ministry are usually the ones to whom God grants the most ministry opportunities. God has always seemed to entrust His richest ministries to His busiest saints. Peter's availability to be involved gave him an open door for ministry.

We also see in verses 34 & 35 that Peter was Christ-exalting. An effective personal ministry requires that we must always seek to exalt our Lord Jesus. Ministry should never be about promoting self. Peter understood his role as an Apostle and he knew where the glory and praise should go. When Peter spoke to Aeneas, he said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you." Peter knew that he had no healing ability, but he knew that Jesus was the power source. Peter's selfless humility stands in sharp contrast to many in the ministry who seek their own fame (and fortune) instead of exalting Christ.

This story shows that Peter was available (verses 36-39). His availability led to even more astounding opportunities. When he dealt with the situation involving Dorcas, he realized all she did for her commu-

nity and how much she was loved. When they came to Peter concerning Dorcas' death, he was available. We also see when he got to her house that he was prayerful (verses 40, 41). Peter sent everyone out of the room because he would not put himself on display. He wanted quiet and calm as he attempted to listen to his Lord. Prayer acknowledges dependence on God, and that is exactly what Peter was doing. He knew the Source of this healing power. Having finished

praying, Peter turned to Dorcas body and said, "Tabitha arise." At that moment she immediately sat up alive and well.

We see in this story that Peter was fruitful (verse 42). God's greatest purpose for raising Dorcas became clear as word of her return to life became known all over Joppa. God used miracles as a confirming sign that the Gospel was true.

In two articles we have written about Peter and his effectiveness in personal ministry. We all need to un-

derstand that personal ministry is a commitment to God's work and it takes our investment of time. It worked then, and it still works today. Are you willing to make the commitment? Are you willing to give your time? The choice is ours to make. Someone is waiting for us to invest in them.

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

Grant continued from Page 2

communities across Grant County. "For the first time ever, Lilly Endowment, Inc. specifically challenged our Board Members to give where they live. Lilly Endowment offered to grant us \$100,000 if every Board Member donated

\$500 to a Community Foundation endowed fund. That's a match of \$5,000 for every \$500 gift," said Dawn Brown, President & CEO of the Community Foundation. "The Community Foundation Board not only met that match, they surpassed

it. That's why we'd like to publicly thank them for engaging in our community by giving through endowment and serving so generously with their time, talent, and treasure to create sustainable impact for the betterment of Grant County."

Answers to puzzles on Page 11

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38			39				40
	41				42			43		44			
			45				46		47		48		
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Skateboarders love them

6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)

9. Former Ohio State great Michael

13. Not dirty

14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)

15. A Spanish river

16. Pig meat (French)

17. Famed astronomer

18. Floating ice

19. Broadcast

21. Aquatic mammals

22. Some are bath

23. Hip hop trio

24. NY Giants' #56

25. Small European viper

28. Neither

29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera

31. Loud noise

33. Second year high schooler

36. "___ in comparison"
38. Golf score

39. Raise

41. Pastas

44. Easily manageable

45. Fathered

46. Pouch

48. Institute legal proceedings against

49. News organization

51. Unruly group of people

52. Fasten or secure

54. Sheets of glass

56. Doubled

60. Foolish person

61. Rooney and Kate are two

62. Small, rich sponge cake

63. Advice or counsel

64. Large wading bird

65. Famed British physicist

66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)

67. Field force unit

68. Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN

1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)

2. Soap ingredient

3. Blackbird

4. Single steps

5. Tin

6. Books have lots of them

7. Made of fermented honey and water

8. You can get it in a bed

9. Room for communal meals

10. Early Syrian kingdom

11. Provokes dry amusement

12. Use with "thou"

14. Mollusk

17. Grain storage units

20. Not a car, not a truck

21. Ooze

23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group

25. Tennis pros group

26. Something that's not what it's purported to be

27. E. Indian trees
29. Beloved December holiday

30. Regions

32. Metric unit of length

34. Peter's last name

35. Beige

37. 18-year period in astronomy

40. Where golfers begin

42. Basketball stat (abbr.)

43. Frocks

47. Soda comes in it

49. On approval

50. Trims by cutting

52. Small finch

53. Language Bura-___

55. Nothing

56. Imbecile (British)

57. Tropical Asian plant

58. Abba ___, Israeli politician

59. Small freshwater fish

61. Indicates position

65. Data processing

SUDOKU

6	8							
		7		4			9	
							2	4
	2			3	4			
3	5		9				6	
4			1	6				3
		2				9		
			6		9		5	
	1		8					

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!