

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 6

The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He mingled with people

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Role of the Church in the Community. Our topic today: The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He mingled with people.

Scripture Theme Song: It is good to give thanks (Ps. 92:1-4)

Christ's method –“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. **The Saviour mingled with men** as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

- 1) Christ mingled with people: the incarnation
 - a) Matthew 1:22-23
 - b) John 1:14
 - c) Hebrews 2:14-18 Was the incarnation necessary in order for the Son of God to understand our human condition or was it necessary in order for us to know He understands?
 - d) What are your thoughts about the willingness of the Son of God to become Emmanuel, God with us?
- 2) Christ mingled with people during His earthly ministry
 - a) Luke 15:1-2

- i) What were the religious leaders insinuating by this complaint?
 - ii) What message was Jesus conveying both to the “sinners” and to the religious leaders?
 - b) What does the 3-part parable in Luke 15 teach us about the God's outreach strategy? Luke 15:3-7, 8-10, 11-24, 25-32
 - c) Matthew 9:9-13 – at the house of Matthew Levi
 - d) Name some other “sinners” Jesus mingled with in order to seek and save the lost.
 - i) The woman at Jacob's well. John 4:5-42
 - ii) The woman cast at the feet of Jesus. John 8:2-11
 - iii) Zacchaeus, chief tax collector. Luke 19:1-10
 - iv) Others?
- 3) Mingling wisely
 - a) Unwise mingling
 - i) Genesis 13:10-13 –Lot with the people of Sodom
 - ii) Number 25:1-3 – Israelites with women of Moab
 - iii) John 18:18,25-27 – Peter with servants & officers
 - iv) Other examples of unwise mingling?
 - b) Wise mingling
 - i) How was Jesus able to mingle with “sinners” without being corrupted by their sinful practices?
 - (1) Mark 1:35
 - (2) John 6:38 (see Philippians 2:12-15)
 - ii) Share the story of someone God called you to mingle with who was an unlikely candidate for the kingdom of heaven. How did God work miraculously in that situation?