

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 7

The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He desired good for all.

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 desired good for all.

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) Our Father in heaven desires good for all of His children
 - a) Many of us have heard the story of Jonah, but perhaps we have missed its most important lesson. Why did the LORD send Jonah to Nineveh?
 - b) Jonah 3:4-10, 4:1-4 – what is Jonah's problem?
 - c) Jonah 4:5-11 – what lesson was the LORD trying to teach Jonah?
 - d) What important insight can we gain from this story about the character of God?
 - e) Psalm 145:9 – the LORD is good to all
 - f) 2 Peter 3:9 – not willing that any should perish

- g) What other stories in the Bible reveal our Father in heaven's desire to do good for all of His children?
 - i) Creation – Genesis 1:31-2:3
 - ii) Redemption – John 3:16
- 2) Jesus reflected the character of His Father – desiring good for all.
 - a) John 14:8-9
 - b) Matthew 7:12 – others, both friend and foe
 - c) Matthew 5:43-48
 - d) Examples of Jesus desiring good for all
 - i) Mark 1:29-34 – what can we learn from this evening of ministry in Capernaum?
 - ii) Mark 5:21-34, 35-43 – Jairus' daughter and the woman with the issue of blood
 - iii) Mark 6:30-44 – feeding the multitude
 - iv) Mark 10:1, 13-16 – what can we glean from this story about desiring good for all?
 - v) Matthew 23:37
 - vi) Other examples
- 3) The failure of the followers of Jesus to always desire good for all
 - a) Luke 9:51-56
 - b) John 4:5-10, 25-27
 - c) James 2:15-16 (see Matthew 25:41-45)
 - d) What prejudices or preconceived ideas hold us back from desiring good for all?
- 4) Embracing this community outreach strategy of Jesus
 - a) Philippians 2:3-4 – desiring good for all (Acts 9:36)
 - b) Philippians 2:5-11 – the example of Jesus
 - c) How is it possible to desire good for all?