

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 8

The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He showed sympathy

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 has sympathy for His suffering children
 - a) Exodus 2:23-25
 - b) Judges 2:18
 - c) Psalm 145:8
 - d) 2 Corinthians 1:3
 - e) Where do you see the sympathy of our heavenly Father revealed in the stories of Scripture?
- 2) Our Savior is full of compassion and sympathy
 - a) Matthew 9:35-36 (see also Matthew 14:14)
 - b) Luke 7:11-17 – grieving at a funeral outside Nain

- c) John 11:32-44 – grieving at the tomb of Lazarus
- d) What other incidents in the ministry of Jesus remind you we have a compassionate and sympathetic Savior?
 - i) Mark 10:13-16 – blessing children and mothers
 - ii) Luke 13:10-17 – healing of woman in synagogue
 - iii) John 8:2-11 – showing compassion to the woman caught in adultery
 - iv) Other incidents?
- 3) Showing sympathy and compassion to others
 - a) Matthew 7:12 – how does the rule of Jesus relate to showing sympathy and compassion to others?
 - b) Luke 10:30-37 – the example of the Samaritan traveler
 - c) 1 John 3:18 – it is possible to be sympathetic without any corresponding action?
 - d) 1 Peter 3:8-9 – a challenge from the apostle Peter
 - e) Share a time when you were blessed because someone showed sympathy and compassion to you.
 - f) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – How have your own times of suffering enabled you to be more sympathetic and compassionate with others who are suffering?
 - g) Why should Christians be the most sympathetic and compassion people on the planet?
 - h) What would it take for us to cry over our communities like Jesus wept over Jerusalem?
 - i) It's impossible for one person to show sympathy and compassion to everyone in the world. How can we identify those who need our sympathy and compassion?