

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 5

Community outreach in the ministry of Jesus

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: Community outreach in the ministry of Jesus.

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

- 1) The mission statement of Jesus
 - a) Luke 4:16-19
 - b) What was Jesus telling those attending the synagogue in Nazareth, and what is He telling us today?
 - c) How do the words of Jesus in Luke 4:16-19 relate to the much simpler mission statement in Luke 19:10?
- 2) The two great commandments according to Jesus
 - a) Matthew 22:35-39
 - i) How is love for God expressed?
 - ii) How is love for our neighbor expressed?
 - b) What is the relationship between the two great commandments?
 - c) Dr. Luke records the response of someone present and shares a story about a merciful Samaritan. Luke 10:30-37
 - i) How does this story relate to the two great commandments?
 - ii) What are your thoughts about Jesus' definition of 'neighbor'?
 - iii) What are some ways we exclude people from being eligible to be called our 'neighbor'?
- 3) Salt and Light
 - a) Matthew 5:13
 - i) What important lessons is Jesus trying to teach us from this salt metaphor about impacting our community?
 - ii) Share an example of a person or church impacting their community like salt.
 - iii) What is the best way to avoid losing your saltiness? (Luke 6:38)
 - b) Matthew 5:14-16 How does letting our light shine impact the lives of those around us?
- 4) Lessons from farming
 - a) John 4:35-38 – some sow, others reap
 - b) Matthew 13:3-9 – are people predestined to be a certain kind of soil or can we improve their soil condition by prayerful and diligent labor?
- 5) Learning to be totally dependent as we reach out
 - a) Matthew 10:5-13 – instructions to the Twelve
 - b) Luke 10:1-8 – instructions to the Seventy
 - c) What important lessons does Jesus want His followers to learn as they reach out in service to their communities? John 15:1-5
 - d) Share a service opportunity where God showed you the importance of completely depending on Him.
 - e) Share a time when God touched someone's heart to support you as you served in Jesus' name.