

Why We Need God at Our Job

One of the last things Jesus said to the disciples was, “‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’” (Mark 16:15, NKJV). This Scripture applies to His followers today as well, but it doesn’t mean we all have to leave our jobs and homes and go into full-time ministry. It simply means we are to act as Jesus acted.

Jesus deposited His life in us, the church. Now we are commissioned to do just what He did—and He gave us the power and authority to do it. He said, “‘I give you the authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you’” (Luke 10:19).

The problem is that we often put limits on God. We acquire wrong mind-sets about the ways in which He works—or the ways in which He will work through us. We need to ask Him to remove the mental “box” that limits our faith and to help us believe that the same Spirit who was in Jesus is in us, making it possible for us to operate in the same types of ministry He did.

Everyone Jesus met was affected by Him. Not everyone followed, not all became disciples, but they still knew He was connected to something or someone other than Himself. He met people where they were and helped them connect to a higher realm, a realm outside their natural circumstances, where they were changed by the power of God and brought into relationship with Him.

WOMAN AT THE WELL The woman from Samaria is a good example. She came to the well to draw water and found Living Water instead (see John 4:5-30). When she first met Jesus, she knew He was no ordinary man because He spoke with authority.

She wanted to have a religious discussion. But Jesus ignored her attempt to steer the conversation in an intellectual

direction and spoke directly to her situation: “‘You have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband’” (v. 18).

His words must have been disarming. She wasn’t expecting this encounter to turn personal. But Jesus saw by the Spirit that she was more than a woman fetching water, more than a woman talking about religion. She was a lost sheep who needed the Great Shepherd.

In order to reach her, He spoke right past all He saw in the natural realm and zeroed in on the hidden facts of her life. She perceived that He was a prophet, but it wasn’t until He revealed Himself more completely that she began to understand He had the power not only to discern her situation but also to bring lasting change.

“‘Whoever drinks of this water [from the well] will thirst again,’” Jesus told her, “‘but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life’” (vv. 13-14).

Jesus had a wonderful way of reaching people where they were, but He didn’t just meet their immediate needs. He introduced them to a greater realm of life and death and helped them come to know His Father.

His compassion caused Him to reach out not with mere sympathy but with power from God. Because He lived in the Spirit realm, He didn’t respond to natural circumstances; He saw past them and ministered to the real issues. He brought the truth into outward circumstances and delivered people from the bondage of natural things—even death.

We can do this, too. And we don’t have to wait for people to come to us; we can take Jesus right out into the marketplace and minister to those we meet with His love and His power.

PRAYING IN FAITH Years ago I was in a wonderful move of God in London. We reached out to people through the gifts of the Spirit and in faith. One of the elders in our church was an actor named John, who had been in a show for a number of months and had a burden for the orchestra leader.

John shared the gospel with him several times, but the man was not interested. He didn't appear to need God! He was very happy; he had a good marriage, a good income, a nice home—and no bad habits to kick. He simply saw no reason to get saved or give his heart to God.

When the play finally finished its run, we prayed with John for this man: "Lord, please reveal a need that this man and his wife cannot meet for themselves." We left it at that, and John did not see the man anymore—until about a year later.

We were all in a "Let Your Light Shine" march in London. There were many thousands of Christians taking part in the march, all singing and shouting praises to God. While we were walking, John suddenly looked up, and a hundred yards away he saw Denis, the orchestra leader, carrying a huge banner, which said in bold letters "Jesus Is Lord."

John learned that Denis and his wife had been living their happy-go-lucky life when their cat was taken very sick. The veterinarian who examined the cat told them she had leukemia and wouldn't live long. He offered to put the cat to sleep.

The couple were distraught because they loved their pet. Denis remembered that John had said something to them about healing, so they looked in the Yellow Pages to see what they could find. They came across a listing for the London Healing Mission, which, unbeknownst to them, was a ministry to street people that actually had nothing to do with physical healing.

They called the number. "Do you heal cats?" they asked, when the minister answered the phone. "Well, I don't see why not; after all, they are God's creatures," he wisely answered. So

Denis and his wife wrapped the cat in a blanket and drove clear across London to the mission.

When they arrived they put the cat into the arms of the minister, who had answered the door. "Lord, please touch this little cat," was all he prayed. Suddenly, the cat leaped from his arms and was perfectly fine.

The couple were saved that night and later became Spirit-filled. God answered our prayer by working through a need they had! He loves to use the situations people find themselves in to reveal Himself to them, if we will release our faith and pray.

PROVING GOD When I was first filled with the Holy Spirit I was working for a company in the West End of London. Up to that point I didn't have much of a testimony.

But once I became filled with the Holy Spirit, I had the power to witness—and something to witness about. I asked Him to help me evangelize the worldly people I worked with. I knew they were not going to take any notice of what I said, so I needed the Holy Spirit's demonstration.

My work at the company was in the accounting department, and at the end of every month, we would have to balance the books. Invariably the balances would be "out," and we would spend several hours—sometimes days—finding the differences and reconciling the accounts.

I seized the opportunity I saw and made an announcement. "When we do the balances, I am going to pray, and the Holy Spirit will show me where my balances are out."

Everyone looked at me as if I had forgotten to get dressed. But at the end of the first month when we started to reconcile the balances, I sat and prayed and asked God to show me where my accounts were out.

"Oh, Lord," I said, "I stepped out and told everyone that You are alive and real. I know You want me to have a testimony. Help!" The Holy Spirit whispered in my ear and told me in which section of the accounts to look. In a few minutes I had found the error, and my balances were all OK.

No one said anything. I didn't say anything either, but the point was made. Every month after that I would sit and pray, and the Lord would tell me where to look. Always within a few minutes my balances were OK. The other employees began to wait for me to pray and got used to seeing God come through.

But settling my accounts was not the only way God revealed Himself to the employees. He began to show me things about them—and released me to confront them.

You see, I wanted to have a testimony when I left that place. I wanted people to know that God is real and that He really does communicate with us today. And I wanted an opportunity to tell them about Jesus. So when God would show me things, I would let the people know that He was "reading their mail."

The chief salesman was a very worldly man. When the Lord began to show me some things about him, I stepped out in faith.

"Ron," I said one day when he came into the office for a file, "God showed me that you are selling the company accounts to another company and that you are planning to follow them."

Ron looked at me with a very open mouth, like a goldfish. He knew he was caught.

"What are you going to do?" he asked.

"Nothing if you bring back the accounts," I said. He did, and after that he began to keep well away from my desk.