



# School Of Ministry

## Lesson 39

### **Concluding Notes on Overview of the Ministry (1)**

*Culled from Valedictory Message to Class of 2010 by Dr Mikel Brown, CJC, El-Paso, Texas.*

You will be a student for the rest of your life; when you stop being a student you stop growing. This is your opportunity to be launched out into various ministries not only within this church but the various ones you will be engaged in eventually; we have a lot of great starters but lousy finishers.

#### **A) A life of service**

- i) In the book of Joshua God spoke to Joshua saying, “My servant Moses has died.” He did not say Moses the law giver or the one who delivered the people out of Egypt; he said my Servant. The highest veneration that you will receive is that God considers you a servant.
- ii) Sometimes we in ministry forget that we are servants. When Jesus was about to depart this earth he asked Peter one particular question, “Peter do you love me?” He didn’t ask do you love the people, church or world. This question was in response to what he said before he died when he told Peter, “You will deny me thrice before the cock crows.” Peter declares, “No, not me” (paraphrased). This is the pride that sets in when we are in Ministry; when we think we have a little bit under our belt. We think we know it all meanwhile we know very little.
- iii) I have been pastoring for 27 years; a lot of people fell by the way side, they gave up their leaders. The first thing Jesus did before he went into ministry was look for his Pastor; John. A forerunner is one who comes before you to prepare you; your leader is simply one who desires that you become far greater than he. Jesus said himself, “greater works shall you do because I am going to the Father.” It is a tragedy for a Pastor not to pour into you more than what he has received to ensure that you go beyond where he has gone. Jesus being the ultimate leader did exactly that.

## **B) Humility in service**

- i) So when Moses died God was saying to Joshua that the highest place in serving is first developing a love for Him.
- ii) Jesus knew that when Peter said, “I will never deny you,” he was also saying, *you forgot that I am the rock, I’ll never deny you, I am one of the three that is always with you.* Jesus said, “Never the less you will deny me” (paraphrased). Jesus recognized that what was in operation was Satan himself and Jesus said get behind me and Peter never really took an offense to that. Sometimes leadership can give you some strong words and we do not take offense because somewhere in the back of our minds we still think that we are better than the ones who trained us. Remember that the teacher is the one that is always greater than the student no matter how much further one goes than the teacher, it was intended that you will go further but it doesn’t make you greater; you are not greater by position; you are great only by servitude.
- iii) Remember the mother that wanted her children to be made great in God’s kingdom; Jesus said, “That is not mine to give” (paraphrased). He didn’t refute greatness or say that you can’t be great but the way to achieve greatness is by serving, because people don’t make themselves great, people make people great; it is how you perceive me that makes me great not how I perceive myself. It is not how good or successful you are, it is how good or successful you want to be. If you want to become influential, learn to serve. Never look down on your leadership; don’t get a banner because you were able to do one miracle; it takes years to pour into people, just think how long it took for your parents to grow and then pour into you. That’s why when you make a decision they will always question you to ensure that you are making the right decision; likewise your Pastor has a right to ask you every single question concerning your ministry, life and how you carry yourself.
- iv) Pastor mentioned something about westernized America and how it has robbed us of what real ministry is: people are only in it for the fame, fortune, to be recognized and when they can’t get it, they surrender, because ministry was never in them in the first place. They may have started off well but they didn’t finish. Serving is always serving; there is no substitute definition for it, the word Ministry or Minister is Servant. Can you imagine going into a restaurant and the waiter comes up to you and says, “Can I help you, let me tell you what you ought to eat.” You will

not only take an offense to it but you will leave the restaurant. That is how many ministers are today.

- v) Jesus asked Peter the second time; do you love me, Peter said, “Yes I love you.” Jesus responded, “then feed my sheep;” in other words your only assignment is to serve the people of God. He asked him a third time and Peter said, “Lord you know...” remember he had so much pride previously such that he didn’t believe what Jesus had said. This time humility kicked in and he said, “You know all things” and Jesus said, “feed my sheep.” Jesus did not give it to John whom he loved to be the apostle to the Jewish Church; he gave it to Peter; you don’t put a man you love in position, you put one who loves you. Peter loved Jesus and he gave him authority over the church.
- vi) The next man who came along was Paul. It had to take Paul being knocked off his donkey. Often times that is what has to happen. Paul was educated, graduated from the University of Tarsus, a professional student, he could rumble at any time with the great philosophers of Greece, never impressed by what someone else knew; he always knew how much he knew, his show of humility was saying, “If there is anyone who can boast about having revelation it is me..... (paraphrased), but since God knows where I am there was given to me a thorn in the flesh.” Notice a thorn is meant to puncture something, to deflate it. Often times- not if, but when- you will run into situations where you need to be deflated. When you know someone has caught the purpose of ministry, is when they desire more to serve than to be served.
- vii) Great men are always appreciative of those who serve them. You find Paul when he had the opportunity he said, “I am betwixt two things: I can go to be with the Father which is far better, or I can decide to stay here but I made a decision that I am going to stay here” and God granted him the right to stay here to continue to pour into the churches. Paul’s great thrill was to see people like you graduate because we know when you graduate you are just starting. I wish to God that he did not sell me on the ideal of how much he loved me first or how much he would do for me before I got saved because had he told me everything, I probably would not be saved today; but Jesus and God being the best salesmen know how to give you the crest of the good stuff; once he got you he said now you are going to have to suffer some things as a Christian. Now had he said that to me before I got saved, I would probably have asked him to let me run around till I was about 70 years old! but God knows I had to make a decision like you when I needed him most and he knew that once I discovered his

greatness and fell in love, hell or high water could come, I would never leave him, he'll keep me and as long as he does I'll stay. The old saying goes, "He'll keep you as long as you want to be kept" and it is true. There are certain keys to progress in ministry.

### C) 5 Steps to progress in Ministry

- 1) **You need to know your product.** Very often we find preachers who know very little about the Word of God. When they are asked how they know they are saved, they will respond with physical realm proof. It is important that you know that these are not indicative of you being born again. Paul said, "I know that I love the brethren because I passed from death on to life, the symbol of my devotion to God is that Jesus Christ said himself that the world will recognize that you are my disciples, my students because you have love one for another." That seems to be missing in the body of Christ. That's why when people say, "O I'm called to ministry" my response is, "What kind of ministry are you called to?" When you have a lofty concept of taking over the Pastor's position, you are not called to ministry. Do you have a love to win souls? How are you called to ministry if you don't have a need to see people born again? This is what happens in the American Church; we see Pastors getting financial blessings; however we do not consider the struggles they have had throughout their ministry. Often times people get to these Pastors when God has elevated them from the basement of their struggles for years and then you say, "That's what I want;" we think that everyone is called to the pulpit ministry. If that is so then who is in the audience to preach to? Who runs the sound? Who cleans the church? Who washes? The Deacons? The servants? I went to a church where a man once said Pastor I want you to be my father and I said, "I'll pray and let you know" then I also said you have to know what you are asking, one of the things the old testament teaches us is that you have to listen to your father; no need having a son who doesn't listen and he is a step son anyway; get rid of him. When I came to his church, I asked the people in the audience, "how many ministers are there?" at least 75% of the people were ministers, I said, "If all of you are ministers, who are the servants? and where are the people to be served?" Needless to say they got offended. That was not my purpose. When you hear the truth; the truth can hurt especially when a Pastor needs somebody to pour into them so that they can properly instruct their people. He was at that place and I did sow in terms of sharing with them. The Pastor ended up having an extra marital affair which happens in about 60% of cases. Now you think ministry is a game? You become a target. **Know your product.** David said, "Thy word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you." That word means the probability of not sinning is greater when

you know the Word of God because we can know a lot of things and still be wrong. Thank God for redemption that that blood is constantly at work cleansing us from dead consciences because we think that when we get born again we automatically forget what it is to sin; you live in a body that is inundated with the desires of this earth, it will never be saved, you have to learn to master your body or it will master you. This is why it is important that you **know the word of God** because it will keep you; the more you know it and let it keep you, the more successful you are in ministry. Learn to speak it, write it.

- 2) **Determine who your target audience is.** In ministry we think that we have the ability to reach everyone but you cannot; you are not built to reach everybody. This is why it was vital that Jesus had 12 men that represented every economic status from finances, to physicians, to employee, to entrepreneur. People think that Jesus just called men out of the blue. He called men who were active, on the move, men who had something that they could contribute to the gospel and often times we think he just went to the ocean and said Peter come on, he knew that Peter was an active business man, he caught fish and sold them for a living which emphasizes how important it was to get a good catch before leaving for ministry so that that money could finance his family while he was gone. You have to understand how to determine your market and marketability; if I want to reach fishermen or finance people, I need people in these occupations. That is the truth of the matter because you will only attract your own kind. You can't get offended if you do not attract people of other races, it is a *whosoever will thing*; if they so happen to have their ears leaning in your direction, then you seize that opportunity. But it is vital that you understand who it is you are supposed to reach, you don't exclude anybody, but you make sure that you understand your target audience. We are living in a country that is very biased and it is very difficult to crack some of those biases. Regardless of the message that we deem to be great and wonderful, remember this: when you are in trouble, you don't care who comes to save you, you just want to be saved, but it is not always the case when you talk about giving something, hence timing is important. No one will buy a virus detector for their computer if viruses weren't an imminent threat. I believe that these companies give you the virus so that they can sell you the product! Don't you know, often times God waits till you need him to invite himself into your life? He knows that often times you will pay him no attention when things are going well. David even knew he said, "If it wasn't for some of these things I am going through" (paraphrased); he knew that if it wasn't for trouble he won't be with God.