

The Minister's Ministry



Handling The Needs of
Those in Your Ministry

The Minister's Ministry
– Handling the needs of
those in your ministry

By Tosin Agbola
RCCG

From John 21 we see that Jesus spoke about feeding the lamb as well as feeding the sheep, in other words: spiritual feeding, emotional feeding, and physical too.

This is quite a lot of work for us to do as ministers. However, we have our assurance that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

It is important to realize that everyone in our flock is different. Even Jesus talked about sheep and lamb. Each has to be treated differently from the lamb, in other words, it is not going to be equal treatment for everybody. May God grant us the discerning spirit of how to treat each one appropriately.

We must remember that our homes too are part of our ministry. It actually brought a 'light-bulb' moment onto it for me. If I can recognise that my children are unique individuals with differing personalities and treat them as such by the grace of God, I should receive grace and patience in handling issues that pertain to God's flock outside the home.

The disciples went back to what they left years back. There was a need in Peter's life. Perhaps he felt empty, not having a sense of purpose. So he went back to his old usual business. I see that the needs in the life of people, if not met, or if not channelled towards God, such a need can send those in our ministries, whether our families or brethren in church back to a lifestyle they forsook. In this scripture, there was a spiritual need. They needed to be revived.

Jesus came to them by the sea, and He saw how they were struggling. The Master saw that the disciples were also hungry even though they didn't mention it. However, the Lord met them at the point of their needs. He didn't rebuke them first, instead, He catered for their needs.

The Spiritual needs of our people.

They need salvation: not all the people who are in the church are saved. Our ministry must work towards saving people, not just making them feel good, or psyching them with psychological or motivational quotes.

It cost God Himself on the Cross to meet the Spiritual needs of those we are ministering to.

Please let us check that out. It is not enough to pray for breakthrough, deliverance, healing and all manner of prayers for people.

Let us make sure that they have the most important need of their lives met, and that is the salvation of their souls.

If we are sure that they are saved, we can then walk towards their spiritual growth, which is another need. Survey has shown that many Christians do not have a constant devotional life, that is, they don't pray nor read the Bible. Meanwhile, all that pertains to life and godliness is made available through their personal knowledge of God.

Therefore, let us help those in our ministries, both in our homes and church or wherever with their spiritual growth. Ask them about their daily prayer life, reading and studying the Word and their relationship with the Holy Spirit. You can show and teach them how to do this. Please help people to grow. It will lessen our loads.

I was pondering on the lesson and another thought of the state of the heart of the minister as she meets the needs of the ministry matters.

How are we doing the work?

As it is service just like our giving, how are we giving our service to God? It should be done with the best intentions and not grudgingly. Let's always watch the state of our hearts and if need be cry out to God to change our hearts and daily conform to be like Him. The state of our hearts matters. There must be no tare no filth no idol only Jesus alone glorified.

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

What are the lessons from the example set by Jesus by washing the feet of His disciples? *Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds*, Proverbs 27:23 NLT

Could we meditate on this verse and ponder on it using many translations? We are commanded to know well the conditions, know their names, their faces, their countenance etc.

Also, the verse mentions sheep and goats, in the flock some are sheep and some goats, some are lovable some are stubborn and not likeable not to talk of lovable, some are obedient and others are just there....but we have a responsibility of CARE and LOVE for ALL.

- Let's pray daily for grace to fulfil God's purposes and desires as we continue to minister to our flock
- Following His example as the Great Shepherd

Response 1

I listened to this today. The word 'know' is something I think we need to consider as we serve the people of God. To meet or help people with their needs or in their needs, we need to know their state. We need to visit, call, get to know people. We can't take people at face value. We need to draw closer to our flock.

I want to point our attention to a few things. Ministering to the flock or our women should be holistic. The need of a human being is spirit, soul and body as mentioned earlier on by our sister, Tosin.

We must not neglect the material needs of our people. Sometimes, we may not be able to provide them the particular need but we can walk the road with them by praying with and for them, following up with them on how things are progressing.

The material needs of our people may be food, shelter, clothing, regularising their visas, finding jobs, marriage issues, children issues etc.

We should also cater for their emotional needs. Don't hesitate to refer them for help when professional help is needed. And sometimes women may have marital challenges, let us trust God to give them godly counsels. Remember that in most cases you are only hearing one part of the story. Where possible, hear the husband out too.

Let us not forget to use the season of needs to disciple our flocks if they allow us to.

In conclusion, I pray for God to always provide for us, as a minister who herself is in need may not be able to meet the needs of the flock.

We have this great assurance that Jehovah Jireh will always come through for us so our needs are met from God's abundant supplies.

Faithful is He that called us and we will not be put to shame and ALL needs of our flock Will be Divinely and supernaturally met to the glory of His name

The Proverb 31 woman had funds and was able to invest and then able to meet the needs of her household. I pray God's grace to abound to you more and more to be worthy vessels and instruments fit for the Master's use in Jesus' name amen.

