

FUTURE HOPE

1 THESSALONIANS

Model Ministry - Part 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

**This a good description of what ministry
is all about.**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A) Great passage on the heart that is needed for ministry

B) This paragraph provides a wonderful model for ministry – What ministry is to look like.

C) Here in this section Paul gives us characteristics of the faithful minister.

Characteristics of The Faithful Minister

- 1) Courage
- 2) Tenderness
- 3) Integrity

Every Christian is in the ministry!

“You don’t judge an army’s strength by how many people sit in the mess hall. You judge an army on the basis of how many people are trained & active on the front line.”

COURAGE

Courage is essential for leadership

1. Courage to stand up for what is right
2. Courage to take risks

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

VS 1-2 Paul uses words to describe what happened to him in Philippi

- 1) Suffered (Physical abuse he endured)**
- 2) Spitefully mistreated (speaks of the emotional abuse and the embarrassment he endured)...**

ACTS 16

- 1) Paul and Silas encounter demon-possessed slave girl
- 2) Pray for her and she is delivered
- 3) Her masters become angry
- 4) Start a riot and beat and imprison Paul and Silas

**We are told in VS 2 - He preached
the gospel with boldness in the
face of MUCH CONFLICT**

MINISTRY LESSON

DON'T QUIT!

Paul was Courageous in Ministry!
He was a man of tremendous
Courage!

1 Corinthians 2:3

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.”

Corinth intimidated him. He was afraid.

2 Corinthians 7:5

“For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.”

What Produced This Courage in Paul?

3 Things:

- 1) Right Means**
- 2) Right Message**
- 3) Right Motives**

1. The Right Means

We Were Bold In Our God

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

2. The Right Message (VS 3-4)

VS 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,

1 Thessalonians 2:4

4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.



“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”

- Martin Luther

MINISTRY LESSON

TRUTH

Real ministry doesn't need to resort to tricking people into doing things. Real ministry deals with truth and honesty.

The Message is a Great Message!

MINISTRY LESSON

PLEASING GOD

Pleasing people will only lead to
trouble.

John 12:42-43

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;
43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

**There are times when God's
servants have to take a stand for
what is right, and that's not always
a popular thing to do.**

**“The Gospel doesn’t need
to be defended, the
gospel is like a lion; just
let it out of his cage and
watch it work, watch how
powerful it is!”**

- Charles Spurgeon



3. The Right Motives (VS 5-6)

5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

MINISTRY LESSON

NOT ABOUT MONEY

Paul wasn't in the ministry for the money.
He didn't come to Thessalonica to make
money off the people.

**Ministry isn't about what you are
going to get from people, it's
about what you are going to give
to them.**

3. The Right Motives (VS 6)

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

MINISTRY LESSON

NOT ABOUT ATTENTION

For some, the allure of ministry is not in the money, it's in the glory.

**So Paul was Courageous in
Ministry:**

**Right Means, Right message,
Right Motives!**

Next Week, we will look at verses 7-12 and see that not only do you need courage, but you need tenderness and integrity in ministry.

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