

Fulfilling Ministry: A Life for a Life

Now that we're alive in Christ, we work to distribute His life to a dying world.

Be a Finisher

The Finish of Paul

2 Timothy 4:5-8

New Living Translation

5 But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

- Don't be afraid of suffering. We know what will happen to us (ridicule, persecution), but don't forget what will happen to them (eternal damnation).
- Work at telling the good news.
- By doing so you will be fulfilling the ministry God has given you!

6 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. 8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

- Paul's life is an example of a fulfilled ministry, "My life has already been poured out as an offering to God.
- Ministry requires sacrifice, there must be giving.
- Death = a poured-out life.
- How do we fulfill ministry?
- Fight the good fight (of faith), finish the race (don't give up), remain faithful.
- The offering of our lives comes with a prize.

The Finish of Jesus

John 17:1-8

New Living Translation

The Prayer of Jesus

17 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. 2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. 3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. 4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

6 “I have revealed you[a] to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, 8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

Your Finish

Philippians 1:6 New Living Translation

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Count the Cost

Luke 14:25-30

New Living Translation

The Cost of Being a Disciple

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, 26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. 27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

- His ministry cost His life give.
- His ministry cost your life to receive.

28 “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

- Count the cost, because we can’t fail to help save the lost.
- When you come to Christ He makes you a minister, administering life to the dying.

Administering Life

Administer Definitions:

3. To afford, give or furnish; as, to administer relief, that is, to act as the agent. To administer medicine is to direct and cause it to be taken.

1. To contribute; to bring aid or supplies; to add something; as, a shade administers to our comfort.

Matthew 14:13-21

New Living Translation

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

13 As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. 14 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15 That evening the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”

16 But Jesus said, “That isn’t necessary—you feed them.”

17 “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!” they answered.

18 “Bring them here,” he said. 19 Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. 20 They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. 21 About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

- Our relationship with Him is a reflection of our ministry, there’s nothing to administer without Him.
- What we get from Him is what we give to others.
- Jesus feeds the 5000, not the disciples but Jesus, ministry done in unity with Him.
- The body doesn’t get the credit, the owner does. “The hands of my wife made me a sandwich last night.” “Brooke fed me”.
- Jesus fed the 5000,
- He performed a miracle and his ministers/disciples distributed it.

A Miracle, A Message, A Minister

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

New Living Translation

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[a] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

New Living Translation

5 It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. 6 He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

- Given life to give life.
- Love must first be received
- Identity must first be received
- Faith must first be received
- Eternal Purpose must first be received

John 3:16-21

New Living Translation

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.