

Respect And Empowerment And Prison Ministry

I. Introduction

Respect in the sense that we have to believe that God sends us to them, and they are not just a random face in the prison/jail in which we minister, but each individual we reach is done according to the divine purpose and will of God.

Empowerment in that we need to believe and activate them for ministry, long before they are ready for release back into society.

I. Respect

A. A change in perspective

B. Who needs who?

1. A traditional paradigm
2. A unity based upon need and purpose
3. Who does God need?

II. An Illustration From Scripture (John 4)

A. Driven by a need (John 4:3-4)

B. "Give me to drink"

1. Why are "you" asking "me?"

C. The revelation of the "go get your husband" question

D. A change in perception (John 4:25-30)

1. Where have the disciples been?
2. Her ministry vs. The disciples' ministry
3. SHE preaches

III. "Billy's" Story

IV. Conclusion

A. Respect

1. The Eleventh-hour worker (Matthew 20:6-7)

B. Empowerment

1. Released for "come see a man" after one encounter by a well