

Modern Models for Ministers

- Arnie the Administrator
- Barney the Busdriver
- Bob the Builder
- Carl the Counselor
- Denny the Demonstrator
- Ernie the Entertainer
- Gary the Good Ol Boy
- Ivan the Intercessor
- Marty the Manager
- Matt the Messiah
- Patrick the Politician
- Paul the Preacher
- Peter the Pope
- Sam the Social Worker
- Tom the Teenager
- Vern the Visitor
- Warren the Waiter

The problem with this is....

- You can't be any one of the models.
- You can't be all of them at once
- They are not all essential to Biblical Models
- You will be totally pulled apart.

THE STEWARD MODEL Matthew 25:14-30

It's about

- Accountability (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- Faithfulness
- Expecting Return
- Acting on behalf of God
- No Status Quo, but increase

THE SOWER MODEL Matthew 13:1-23

It's about

- Faithfully sowing on all soils
- Allowing growth
- Patience to leave results with God
- Cooperation with waterer, reaper.....
- Increase
- Separation at Harvest

THE SERVANT MODEL John 131-17

It's about

- The fact that Jesus was one
- It is His desired method
- We must be models so they will
- Humility
- Not being the King
- Working WITH others
- Working FOR others.

THE SHEPHERD MODEL Jer. 3:15, John 11

NIV - Shepherds, Lead, Knowledge

KJV - Pastors, Feed, Understand

His Heart of Compassion

- To Heal (Mt. 14:14)
- To Teach (Mk 6:34)
- To Nourish (Mk 6:35)
- To Forgive (rescue, Lk 15:7)
- To Direct (Leading, Jn 10:3-4)
- His Heart of Self Sacrifice (Jn 10:11, Ph 2:5ff)
- His Heart of Unity (Jn 14:31)
- His Heart of Purity (Is 53:9, Heb. 4:15)
- His Heart of Servant hood (Jn 13)
- We are to become the evidence of the presence of God (Jeremiah 3:16)

The Shepherd Asks

- What do they need today for food?
- Where should I go?
- How can I refresh them?
- How can they learn from God's voice?
- How should I protect them?
- How do I help them to bear lambs?

My pastor is my shepherd, He will provide all I need. He provides spiritual and physical nourishment. He provides spiritual refreshing. He provides encouragement. He provides ethical instruction. He walks with me through the darkest moments of my life. He provides protection and comfort from life's trials. He provides affirmation when others attack. He gives me a sense of worth and purpose and a place to serve. His love and goodness will pursue me until I come to dwell in my eternal home.

THE SACRIFICE MODEL John 1:29

It's about sacrifice. (see also Philippians 2)

The Cross is Not:

- Mrs. Jones who doesn't like your preaching
- Trying to get Sunday School Teachers
- Mr. Smith who complains about everything.
- Those who vote against your ideas
- Those on the board
- The pain in your big toe
- The computer that crashes with your Sunday Sermon locked away.

Those are inconveniences and trials... Not crosses. The cross was not a piece of jewelry or code word for inconveniences. The cross was a horrible form of execution. Punishment never imposed on a Roman Citizen. Reserved for the lowest criminals.

When we hear Jesus on cross-bearing, we must understand the context.

The Cross Is:

- Death to your own plans and wishes
- Putting your life on the line for Jesus
- Putting your life on the line for others
- Living Sacrifices
- Letting your energies be consumed
- Candles must be consumed to give light
- Batteries must be consumed to give light
- The sun must be consumed to give light.
- The pain of persecution and rejection
- Carrying with you daily the means of your own execution.

When we are called to Minister
We are Chosen to Suffer.

The uncomfortable truth.... But Biblical truth
It's about Living Sacrifices.

In Acts chapter 6, seven men were chosen for leadership. It sounds like a glorious, self satisfying, popular thing. However, the text that follows we find words like...

Opposition * Argue * Stirred Up * Seized
False Witness * Furious * Ground Teeth *
Stone Him!

- We are not called to places of glamor but work
- We are not called to places of honor but opposition.
- We are not called to places of power but servant hood
- We are not called to places of privilege but sacrifice.

Our call is not to chair meetings, run programs, read books, make speeches, organize receptions, etc... It may require that, but!

We are called to transform things in the name of God:

- To transform Lives
- To transform Families
- To transform Communities
- To transform Nations
- Until the Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of God and of His Christ.

Those who cling to cheap Grace won't like it.
The Devil won't like it.

The Local Board won't like it
All those who love darkness will hate the light.

If the world hates you, keep in mind that they hated me first.

MINISTRY MODELS Sermon Notes, Dr. John Nielson 2005 Ministers & Mates Conference

Here's what Jesus Said:

- If you belong to the world, it would love you as its own.
- As it is, you do belong to the world but I have chose you out of it.
- That is why the world hates you.
- Remember "No servant is grater than his master."
- If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.
- They treat you this way because of my name.
- They do not know the One who sent me.
- He who hates me hates my Father as well.
- If I had not done among them what no-one else did, they would not be guilty of sin.
- But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.
- But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'
- All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.
- They will put you out of the synagogue;
 - in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.
- They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.
- I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. (John 15:18-16:4, NIV)

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. (Luke 9:23-24, NIV).

Please don't misunderstand me, I do not want to minimize the crown, but I firmly believe that the final picture you need to see today, is not a vision of heaven and glory and crowns.

- Instead, we need to go into the Garden of Gethsemane--

- to hear the anguished prayers of Jesus
- to taste the bitterness of the cup
- to see the torches of the enemy
- to feel the traitorous kiss of a friend
- and then to ask--

Are we willing to accept this cross? Will we lay down our lives for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom?

If we seek the Crown and expect reward, we will never have the strength to survive in ministry. But, if right up front, we will accept the cross,

- someday we will receive the crown.

If you winter the ministry expecting glory and rewards instead of tough work and opposition, we will fail.

- But if we go in spite of that, we will find rich rewards.
- But it must be the cross first.

**There is no resurrection without crucifixion.
But thank God,
There is no crucifixion without resurrection!!**

I hope I have not sounded gloomy and, in fact, I am trying to bear witness to the fact that I have discovered that the joy of life and the rewards of ministry are found

- precisely in the cross we carry!!
- In accepting it , not shunning it.

Ministry may not be fun everyday, but even with its pain, I wouldn't trade it for anything else--not for

- a bigger salary
- a greater reputation
- career security
- an Olympic medal
- or even a golden, jewel-studded, heavenly crown!!

Jesus never called us to crown-wearing.

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He called us to cross-bearing.

- He called us to work, to risk, to self-sacrifice, to costly love, to washing feet, to servant hood.

Jesus left a cross for you to carry.

- You leave the matter of crowns to Him.
- Ministry is a matter of doing the work of God in the world, not earning a salary.
- The eternal destiny of souls is at stake, not just your reputation.
- The destiny of your nation is at stake, not your career.

If Jesus had to leave behind His crown for a cross, so will you. If He had to face opposition, you will too. If it cost Him His life, it will cost you yours as well--

- one way or another --one day at a time.

Remember, He said,

- In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)
- Remember, be faithful and He will give you the crown of Life!--
- BUT--
 - Don't Seek the Crown--and--
 - Don't Shun the Cross
- Be A Steward, A Sower, A Servant, A Shepherd, and a SACRIFICE

A COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be full, let me be empty;

let me have all things, let me have

nothing;

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.

Let the Covenant which I have made on earth, be ratified in heaven.

- John Wesley

- **Read Philippians 3:7-11**
- **SING: Oh, I want to Know You More**