

Uneducated + Common = Enough - The True Nature of Ministry

“Come experience the presence of God” impression is ministry happens *somewhere else* by *someone else*

- **The NT shows a different reality** Slide 2 Act 4:13 Now when they [*priests and Sadducees*] saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **uneducated, common men**, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

What is the Ministry?

Slide 3 **Gk Definition Diakonos** = in 1st century MINISTER was not a title, a profession or special group... It was an **attendant waiting on tables**, or **someone carrying out a task for another**

- **Jesus made this the mark of greatness in his kingdom** Mark 10:43-45 — *“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant... For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”*

Slide 4 **DEFINITION BASED IN SCRIPTURE**: Ministry is the **variety** of ways given to us by **God's grace** — In order to **meet the needs** of others — and requiring some **response** from us.

Slide 5 **Ministry is the variety of ways given to us by God's grace.....**

- 1Co 12:5**varieties** of service, but the same Lord;
- Eph 3:7 I was made a minister **according to the gift of God's grace.....**
- Act 20:24if only I may finish my course and the **ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus.....**

Slide 6 **In order to meet the needs of others.....**

- Act 11:29to **send relief** to the brothers living in Judea — financial help during famine
- Act 6:1neglected in the **daily distribution** [of food] — providing for daily meals for widows
- Act 6:4the ministry **of the word** — teaching and preaching
- 2Co 5:18 the ministry **of reconciliation** — evangelism

Slide 7 **And requiring some response from us.....God gives it, we faithfully complete it**

- Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, “See that you **fulfill the ministry** that you have received in the Lord.”
 - **Fulfill** = Bring it to completion - to finish what God has entrusted to you
- Eph 6:21Tychicus the beloved brother and **faithful minister** in the Lord
 - **Faithful** = trustworthy — has to do more with character - you can entrust something valuable
- 1Co 16:15.....the household of Stephanas have (KJV **addicted**) **devoted themselves** to the service of the saints--
 - They intentionally ordered their lives (**devoted self, not assigned**) around serving God's people.

Ministry belongs to ORDINARY BELIEVERS It is not rare—it is everywhere, and it belongs to all believers

Why Are You Qualified?

Slide 8 **1) You have the power**

- 1 Cor 3:16 — *“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?”*
- Rom 8:11 — *“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”*

Slide 9 **2) You have the Resume'**

- Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **uneducated, common men**, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had **been with Jesus**.

Slide 10 **3) You have the calling — the question is not “AM I called”, it is “Am I a Saint?”**

- Eph 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to **equip the saints** for the **work of ministry**, for **building up** the body of Christ,
- The real question is not “**Am I called to the ministry?**” it is “**Am I a saint?**”

Where Does Ministry Happen?

- “So if you already have the Spirit, you’ve been with Jesus, and you are a saint equipped for ministry... then the question becomes—where does that ministry actually take place in everyday life?”

Ministry can happen anywhere (a park, a street corner, a school, a lunchroom at work) but I want to focus on **something that all of us have — OUR HOME**

4) The ministry that took place in homes was instrumental in the advance of the kingdom of God

- Jesus, healed, taught, ate with sinners, gave correction and direction to his disciples in homes
- Early church, prayed, met as churches, broke bread together, extended hospitality, taught, evangelized

A simple acronym H.O.M.E. to help you think through how you could use your home

- **Slide 11** Hospitality — open your life, your home — the love of strangers
 - Think Zacchaeus or tax collectors and sinners friends of Matthew
 - Start one meal snack or coffee per month, no agenda - just invite someone over
- **Slide 12** Oikos — Your relational network (Who has God already placed around you?)
 - Think Lydia, think Cornelius, think Philippian jailer family
- **Slide 13** Ministry — Serve them - prayer, encouragement, befriend, meet a need
- **Slide 14** Evangelize - Equip — Help them take a next step...**Lost?** → Toward Christ **Saved?** → Deeper in Christ

The next time you see an ad or event

- “Experience the power of God”---or “Brother so and so is in town, God is really going to move”
- **Remember that Ministry is not SOMEPLACE by SOMEONE...it is ANYWHERE by EVERYONE**

The Holy Spirit + Your Home + Your Oikos = The Work of the Ministry

Slide 15 Open your home to advance the kingdom

- Brief interest, orientation after church **July 19th**
- Training **Aug 15th 8:30-11:30** Saturday morning