



Sermon Series Notes

“Ministering To The Ministers” (Mark 6:30-31)

Dave Dodge - GS3429

Intro: I know you were expecting Danny to speak to you today. Although he is not here Physically he will be speaking to you via video toward the end of this service.

Please look with me at Mk 6:30-31 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

V 30

Apostles Gather around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught

- They had been commissioned by Jesus to do ministry with power
- He had sent them out 2 X 2
- **Mt 10** says Jesus gave them authority to drive out evil spirits, and heal every disease and sickness and even raise the dead
 - **But the first thing he tells them to do** is preach the message of the kingdom
 - After Jesus Death, Burial, and Resurrection, The preaching of the Gospel becomes the default message of the entire Bible
 - Peter preaches the Gospel at the birth of the Church
 - 2000 saved
 - The Apostles message is the same as the church grows
 - It is the message of the persecuted church preached everywhere they went when driven from Jerusalem
 - And Pauls message after his conversion on Damascus rd.
 - Healings, raising the dead, demons driven out accompany the Gospel

Danny Hodges was called the lead CC St Pete with the same Emphasis on teaching and preaching the Gospel,

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- The little fellowship grew and moved from place to place
- It was soon very evident as the church got larger and Staff was added
 - **That Danny Hodges was in demand:**
 - Weddings, memorial services, counseling, tragedy, celebrations all clamored for Danny’s attention

- It was wearing him down to the point of severely affecting his ability to get aside to study and teach the word

A plan was put in place to divide those responsibilities among a growing Pastoral staff

- Danny would tell you himself that this plan saved his life
- Also during this time as Pastors were empowered by Danny to take more responsibility in the day to day operations of the church
 - It became evident the Pastors were involved in vital ministries that were continually growing; your assoc. Pastors
 - Jim O'Connor tapped to lead children's ministry (22yrs)
 - He was teaching a Sunday School class when the administrator of Childrens ministry stepped down and Danny asked Jim to take the job
 - Now encompasses Child care with gospel curriculum at all our services
 - He also has oversight of our preschool ministry(Kids Care
 - Frank Dehn, brought on staff 18 yrs ago
 - Men of Arms / 1st Sat of each month / 40 guys
 - Mens discipleship on Thurs night
 - Oversight of bldg. maintenance and New Constr.
 - Many of you have been blessed by this ministry
 - Josh
 - Grew up in church
 - Leads middle school
 - Had vision to have services for middles schoolers
 - And also for middle school rugged camps in summer

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- Ryan
 - For many years has led the HS ministry
 - Every band you have seen on stage for years now are bands and leaders who have come up under his tutelage
 - C-2 which meets on Thursday nights
- Tom
 - When I came on staff Tom was just presenting to Pastoral staff his vision for Foster Care ministry
 - Tom has overseen Safety, Grille, and is the driving force and overseer behind our Campbell School out reach
- Art is a true visionary, he has more vision than we can keep up with (14 yrs)
 - Oversight of our missions ministry
 - Established our mission in Antigua Guat. With PFM
 - Local church of now over 300 led by a guat.
- Joe (14 yrs)
 - Our Executive Pastor who oversees all the finances of Calvary Chapel
 - He is one busy guy
 - He also developed along with Joel Martin a finance class that they teach in our CE
- Me (12 yrs.) not known for my vision

- I inherited oversight of LGs, Benevolence, Counseling, Small groups, and Pastor Danny's direct Assistant

Note:1, Why do I mention all these things

- Because regardless of who is Senior Pastor these ministries will continue
- Because these ministries are just a sampling of all the ministries that exist and thrive here at Calvary Chapel
- Because we as Pastor may be the overseers but our staff and our congregation, our family here CC St Pete are what make these ministries thrive

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Note:2, These Ministries and services all exist because of Danny's Approval and promotion. His leadership and his legacy. His commission and commitment

- These are the good things that accompany the Gospel in our midst

As we look at the next and last verse of our text. Notice what it says

V 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Jesus is in His second year of ministry, (yr of popularity)

- Most miracles
- Most ministry
- Most demanding

He has commissioned his disciples:

- **Preach message of kingdom**
- **Heal all diseases**
- **Cast out demons**
- **Raise the dead,** and they come back stoked to tell him all the things they have been able to do
 - **But back In Capernaum, they are** besieged with the demands of the people so much so that **They didn't even** have a chance to eat
 - John the Baptist has just been beheaded
 - Jesus says lets find some peace and quiet
 - 5000 men + women and children
 - **Heals, teaches, then feeds them,** they are involved as well
 - Jesus puts them in the boat and he goes to pray

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- Middle of the night Jesus sees them 3 miles out, struggling against the waves
- Comes walking on the water, not running
- **They left Capernaum exhausted**
 - Like going on a mission trip with Frank Dehn
 - **Motto:** What doesn't kill you makes you stronger

A-They have the Joy of God using them to heal,etc.

B-They have the grief of John the Baptists death

C-They are physically and mentally exhausted before getting into the boat

D-And are scared to death by this Ghost walking on water

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E- It is another several chapters in Mark, before they finally do have some down time representing days or even weeks

Danny would be the one among us who having found out it was Jesus, would have said if it's you, then tell me to come to you. And gotten down out of the boat and walked on the water.

- I say that because of his willingness to takes ministry leaps of faith
 - He has seen potential in people that might have otherwise not had the opportunity for vocational ministries
 - I believe that I am one of many who have benefitted from that willingness
 - Whether it was bringing people on staff or acquiring new property Danny has been a true visionary
- It is also because of the constant and relentless demands of ministry that Danny needs some time to rest

During our Easter services, Danny spoke of his plan to preach during this weekend's services. We will now play a video that explains why he is not with us today. After the video plays, we'll close the service with a few words and prayer.

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Play Video: After video

I speak on behalf of all the pastors when I say these past few months have been one of the most difficult periods in Calvary Chapel's history.

We love Danny, Wendy and their family. They have touched our lives in ways that we do not even fully comprehend. Please know that we are committed to Danny's restoration and growth in Christ. We rejoice that God doesn't give up on his children when they fail. So we say, with conviction, that God has not abandoned Danny Hodges. He has not turned his back on him or his family and neither have we. And for that, I am thankful.

One way God is helping Danny is by linking him with a ministry called PastorServe. PastorServe exists to help men like Danny in their hour of need. I will now read a statement from PastorServe, which will give you a little more information about how they plan to help.

The goal of the restoration process is not to get a fallen leader back into the game but rather to see a broken man healed by the truth of the gospel and redemptive relationships. We are not working primarily to restore him to Calvary Chapel or any other ministry. While restoration to a Senior Pastor role may be an eventual outcome, it is not the focus of the process.

Phase 1 – The First Days, Danny has already begun this phase
Emphasis on Discovery / Cooperation / Intake / Assessment

Phase 2 – The Initial Three Months

Emphasis on Deep Heart Work / Root Issues / Ownership

The initial three months are centered on Gospel coaching, intensive counseling for Danny, care for Wendy, relational conversations and solitude.

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Phase 3 – Months 4-8 Assessing and Repairing the Broken

Emphasis on Coaching / Healing Personal Relationships

Month four of the process moves into a period of intensive discipleship and the mending of personal relationships. Where needed, Pastor Serve will lead a period of mediation between the parties.

Phase 4 – Months 9-12 Building New Foundations

Emphasis on Discipleship / Next Steps

During months 9 and following, Danny will continue individual meetings and, when necessary, relational mediation. This phase will also begin to explore, 'what's next' for Danny and his family. During phase four, the restoration team, in close consultation with Danny and Wendy, asks the question, what comes next. In many ways, the plan will be evaluated by three factors – week by week, is Danny more in love with Jesus, is he more in love with Wendy, and is he more in love with biblical community.

Now I want to focus on how we can pray in the coming weeks:

- Pray for Danny and his family.
- Pray that God helps them experience God's love and healing in ways they have never experienced.
- Pray for Calvary Chapel's leadership. Danny has been with us for 34 years. Moving forward without him will be very different. But there is a truth God has made very clear to us these past few months. Jesus loves Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg. He gave up his life to purchase our freedom from sin and death. He has always stood by our side. And he will be us today and forevermore. Ask God to remind us, as your leaders, that He will never leave us or forsake us.

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- Pray that all of our identities are in Christ and Christ alone. There is no need for us to feel shame. That's because our shame was covered by the blood of Christ 2000 years ago. When your neighbor, family member or friend asks, "What in the world happened to Danny and your church?," reply with a smile and say, "God is helping Danny become more like Jesus Christ. And as for our church, we're going to be just fine, because Jesus heads it up, and he's doing just fine."

Call folks up for Prayer

Pray as you feel lead. You may want to cover our need to stay focused on Christ / resist gossip and slander / know that God is guiding our paths.

Invite elders to come forward to minister, pray, answer questions. There are also Pastors at the ministry center

As they come mention Hot Line and FAQs

Hot line:

- **8am to 8pm**
- The phone number is: 727-471-1198
- The number becomes active on May 1st at 8:00AM.

- Calls that come into the number between 8:00AM and 8:00PM will be routed **directly to the pastor on duty's cell phone** after a brief message letting the caller know that's what is about to happen.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Pray and

- Call folks up for Prayer
- Pray as you feel led.
- Stay focused on Christ
- resist gossip and slander & know that God is guiding our paths.