

BIBLE BITE

*Devotional from Acts 9:39-43
by Jon Courson*

Peter was available. That is the most important requirement for personal ministry. He didn't say, "I'm too big to minister to one dead woman. Do you think that's a good use of my time?" No, Peter responded to the need at hand. Maybe there's a dead person in your life—not physically but spiritually—whom the Lord wants to revive through you, as He taps on your shoulder and says, "Come quickly."

Peter was prayerful. I suggest to you the reason Peter knelt down was because he realized that not only was he inadequate for this ministry, but if anyone happened to look into his room while he was praying, they would see him calling upon the Lord.

Peter was fruitful. His ministry to one dead woman caused an entire city to be exposed to the gospel.

By many peoples' evaluation, Mordecai Ham was one of the least effective preachers of his day. But a young man named William heard his message, responded, and got saved. This makes Mordecai Ham's entire ministry valid, for William Franklin Graham, better known as Billy, would, in turn, reach millions.

When you reach one third-grader in Sunday school, you don't know if that third-grader might not be the next Billy Graham. Like Peter, you never know the fruit that will come from working with one "dead" person.

Peter was flexible. Where did he lodge? With a tanner. Because they dealt with dead animals, so unclean did the Jews esteem tanners that the Mishnah—Jewish regulation—stated that the wife of a tanner had the right to divorce him.

Thus, the Lord's work with Peter concerning the issue of legalism began in the house of a fellow whom Peter previously would have avoided completely. If we're going to be used individually and corporately, like Peter, we need to show flexibility within the parameters of Scripture—not bound by traditions or preconceived opinions—even if it means hanging out with tanners.

Be like Peter. Be available. Be prayerful. Be flexible—and watch the Lord make you fruitful.

STAYING IN CONTACT

For those who consider Calvary Christchurch their home Church we encourage you to fill out a contact card. This will assist with Church admin and ensure that you are able to be contacted by phone and receive email communication.

Meeting at: Papanui Adventist Church
13 Grants Road, Papanui

Email: scott@calvaryhc.nz | Ph: 021 501 903 | www.calvaryhc.nz

MEMORYVERSE

*And He said to them,
"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15 NKJV*

CHILDRENS MINSITRY

After worship, the children are invited to attend Kids' Church for 3-12 year olds, which offers age-appropriate Bible teaching, crafts and activities. There is also a small creche for children 2 and under.

PRAYER MINISTRY

We consider prayer a vital ministry of the church. Please feel free to share your prayer needs with the elders up front after the service. We will endeavour to keep you in prayer through the week. Prayer requests, Prayer Updates and Praise Reports can also be emailed to prayer@calvaryhc.nz

OFFERINGS

At Calvary we don't pass the offering bag during service. This is so visitors don't feel awkward, or pressured to give. We believe that financial giving is a big part of our Christian faith, and God blesses us as we commit our finances to Him. Offerings can be put in the Offerings Box on the Info Table or by way of bank deposit to **02 0842 0050549 00** (BNZ, Ferrymead, Calvary Chapel Christchurch).

OUR PRIORITIES

TO KNOW



We exist to KNOW Jesus personally and deeply.
This knowledge is ongoing and personal.

TO GROW



Our Purpose is to GROW into maturity in our faith and relationship to Jesus Christ and in Biblical community with one another.

TO GO



Committed to the Commission. Our Mission is to GO into the world for Jesus and make disciples, shinning the love of God through our lives.

