

## **MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK**

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

### **Caring With Others**

**Definition:** Individually we can only do so much to care for others. Connecting with other like-minded individuals will accomplish more. If everyone plays even a small role, the combined total makes a big difference. When you see others and encourage them to step out in faith, you can make a difference in others' lives.

**Audio Segment:** Step out in Faith (*Francesca Battistelli*)

#### **Segment Questions:**

- Walk through each of the four steps outlined on the back. Based on your experiences, is there anything you would add?
- Have you ever got a group together to do service/ministry project for someone in need? How did it go? What went right? What would you do differently? Did you pray before the actions?
- When you do a "step out faith" opportunity, does age matter? Do you know men who think they are too old to serve or do ministry? What do you say to them, or are you one of them?
- Discuss Ephesians 3:20 think about these questions: First how can we really believe this verse? If we have a tendency to put God in a box.....how does this verse address that?

#### **Action Questions:**

- In my opinion our community does a good job helping those who are in need. However, are there some people in need that God specifically wants us to minister to? Are you being called to take those steps and care for a group not getting help? Discuss...who are those and what might it look like to care for them?
- You may say God is not calling you to a ministry to care for others, but is that really true? The scriptures listed seem to say this is something we all should do. How could you be CARING WITH OTHERS?

**Personal Application:** While we care with others and serve, we must be sure that our motives are true. We are helping others because Christ loves us and we want to show/share His love with those in need. It is not about doing works to gain salvation or good standing with the Lord.

## Caring With Others

The five individual devotions in my opinion provides a step by step guide for us when it comes to caring with others. I have joined devotions two and five to make a four step plan:

1. See others around you. Quite simply you must see the need. We must take off our blinders and see the people around us. Phil 2: 4

2. Encourage others to participate/Join Together in Caring. I put these together because I believe they go hand in hand. Often, I have participated in caring, because I saw others doing a work and God compelled me to join them. We don't always have to start something new. Henry Blackaby author of "Experiencing God" always stressed that we should see where God is at work and join Him. Sometimes others will join your work, but when they don't, you should not take it personally. There are MANY things to do for the Lord and people should serve where God directs. I Cor 3:9 For we are co-workers in God's service, you are God's field, God's building. NIV

3. Step out in Faith. Why is this an issue for so many of us? We have studied the scriptures for so long; we have seen God work in our lives; we love and worship Him.....and yet often it is so hard for us to step out in faith. How often are we surprised when God shows up and works things out. Instead of being surprised, why isn't that the norm? We can have that step out in faith because of the power within us! And what a blessing to learn that we can step out in faith EARLY in our walk with the Lord. We need to encourage our young people to act on their faith now, not later.

4. Change can happen. When we do steps 1, 2, and 3 then something will happen. I like this phrase because the change may not be what we set out to achieve, in some cases it is better. The desired outcome may/may not happen, but the change that occurred in the individuals was far better than the achievement of the goal. (example a group of believers and non-believers goes on a mission trip to do disaster relief and some of the non-believers accept Christ) Remember, some change may occur long after our efforts. We must be faithful to do what we are called to do and leave the results to God.

**Hebrews 10:24** -- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

**Luke 17:5-6** -- The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'and it would obey you.

**Ephesians 3:20** -- Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

**Philippians 2:4** -- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Hebrews 13:16** -- Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**John 15:12** -- "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**1 John 3:17** -- But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?