



The Discipleship Project of Horizon Central

Level #1 Series #3 Study #4

Topic: Ministry

1. Let's start with our preconceptions, whether good or bad, right or wrong. What do the words "ministry" or "minister" mean to you? What pictures or ideas do they conjure up in your mind?
2. To help us begin drawing a Bible-based picture, read **Matthew 20:20-28**.
3. In the Bible, a *minister* is another word for *servant*. *Ministry* is some kind of *service*. There are several words used in the NT to convey this idea.
 - a. *Diakonos* servant, one who waits tables, one who executes the commands of another. See **Matthew 20:26** above.
 - b. *Doulos* slave or bondservant. One whose will is consumed in the will of another. See **Matthew 20:27** above. See also **Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1** and **Jude 1:1**.
 - c. *Huperetes* Literally, "under rower" or "under oarsman". The idea is that of a subordinate, servant, attendant or assistant in general. See **John 18:36** and **Acts 13:5**. Notice that John Mark followed Barnabas and Saul around to help them in whatever way they needed.
 - d. *Oikonomos* steward, a manager or agent. An administrator, one who manages the affairs of a family or business. Someone like the city treasurer: See **Romans 16:23**.
4. For the last two words, see also **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**.
5. Now that we've looked at several biblical examples, try to summarize the idea of "ministry" or a "minister" within a totally biblical frame of reference.
6. The idea of ministry is closely associated with the concept of spiritual gifts. In other words, our gifts help us to define our individual ministries. See **1 Corinthians 12:4-19** and **1 Peter 4:10-11** to help us get a better handle on this.
7. Finally, serving Jesus is closely associated with following Him. Jesus also promises that those who serve and follow Him will be honored by the Father. Read **John 12:26**.
8. Think back on everything that we've talked about in this study. Which of the things we touched on best helps you to understand Christian ministry? Which most motivates you in serving Jesus?

"Jesus told many parables about stewards, some who were faithful and some who weren't. We are stewards of God, and He has entrusted us with carrying on His work. We aren't required to be brilliant, or even successful. That is His department. We are just required to be faithful, carrying out our duties as stewards." (Chuck Smith, The Word for Today Bible)