"MINISTRY MULTIPLICATION
WITHIN A MULTI-ETHNIC CONTEXT"

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I. Understanding the Inner-City Context

(Ministering in the Inner-City is Comparable to the Ministry Paul had in Cities such as Ephesus, Thessalonica, and Corinth)

A. The Challenge of Inner-City Ministry

1. The challenge of population
   (11 million people in NYC; 8 million citizens)

   In society: There are obstacles to face -

   a. Mixed nationalities (confusion, disorder)
   b. Long lines; traffic
   c. Everything is expensive
   d. City abounds with cults and various world religions

   In church: There are bridges to cross -

   1) language 2) culture 3) various educational backgrounds

   a. With foreigners, must keep messages simple
   b. Less formality in the services
   c. Transportation problems; parking
   d. Late for services (a cultural tendency)

2. The challenge of society

   a. A liberal society
   b. A transient society
   c. A corrupt society
      (much bribery; public school system)

3. The challenge of sin
   Acts 17:16 (Athens); Acts 18:9-10 (Corinth)

   a. Sin is everywhere, but magnified (intensified) in cities.

(Sin is so prevalent, you can "feel it"

b. Split homes abound
AIDS
Drugs (crack)
Crime

B. The <u>Blessings</u> of Inner-City Ministry

1. The golden opportunities

a. Harvest is plenteous
b. Reach foreigners (train nationals)

2. The enthusiastic believers (zealous)

a. Less self-righteousness in city
b. Less "middle of the road"-ers
(either hot or cold; can't be complacent and make it)

3. Searching hearts
(It is a blessing to reach people who are in desperate need; lives wrecked or headed for disaster; people seeking meaning, direction in life.)

II. <u>Ministering</u> in an Inner-City Context

A. The <u>Philosophy</u> of Ministry Multiplication in the Inner-City (Eph. 4:11-16)

NOTE: The context of the Ephesian church - diverse backgrounds; ethnic variations; cultural differences.

In Ephesians, Paul calls for unity among diversity. This unity can only be found "in Christ" (Ephesians 2:11-22) by the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6).

1. The <u>Pastor's</u> Responsibility (v. 12a)

"For ("pros") the perfecting of the saints"

"Perfecting" has two ideas:

a. Mending (like a doctor)

b. Equipping (like a coach)

*As a pastor, our goal is to reproduce ourselves. To bring our people to maturity and independence, like a parent does with children.

2. The Believers' Responsibility (v. 12b,c)

a. ("Eis" = unto) Performing a spiritual ministry (v. 12b)

b. ("Eis" = unto) Building up other members spiritually (v. 12c)

Our responsibility as pastors is to teach others to teach. In doing this, the ministry multiplies.

II Timothy 2:2 - ". . . commit thou to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" -

Paul -- Timothy -- Faithful men -- Others

3. The Church's Goal: Spiritual Growth

a. Maturity (v. 13)
b. Stability (v. 14)
c. Unity (v. 15-16)

B. The Method of Ministry Multiplication in the Inner-City

1. Two requirements for multiplying your ministry:

a. A personal ministry

Christ's ministry was personal (cp. Mt. 9:2, 9, 18, 20, 27, 32).

He never isolated Himself from personal involvement in the problems and needs of those He ministered to.

He rubbed shoulders with those who were hurting, and was

intimately involved in the instruction of those He discipled.

Christ taught by precept (Matthew 5 - 7).

Christ taught by example (John 13:3-15).

Christ taught by providing opportunities for practical experience (Mark 6:7-13; John 6:11).

b. A patient ministry

Christ remained patient with those He taught despite frequent bickering, selfishness (mt. 20:17-28), and misunderstanding of His Person (Jn. 14:5-9), message, and mission (Mt. 16:21-23).

The pastor must preach God's Word with "all long-suffering (patience) and doctrine (teaching)" (II Tim. 4:2).

Missionary William Carey said three ingredients are essential for effective ministry: "Patience, patience, patience."

2. Training programs for multiplying your ministry:

a. Training for evangelism

1) Personal evangelism course taught periodically

2) "Tract Attacks" (one per month)

3) Visitation program

a) Experienced caller with inexperienced ("two by two")

b) Our city of Queens is divided into sections with an area leader over each section. This leader gives card(s) out to each calling team each week, and they report to him.

b. Training for discipleship

1) New Converts class

2) Home Bible studies

3) Visitation program

c. Training future teachers and church planters

1) Bible Institute

2) Ministering opportunities