

God and Your Ministry

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 128.

B. Topic: the widening spheres of influence from ministry.

1. These multiply while we are around.
2. They increase when we are gone.

II. The widening spheres of influence.

A. Influence continues on after a lifetime. (Psalm 94:14)

B. The person who fears the Lord and walks in His ways will experience this blessing of widening influence. (Psalm 128:1)

1. If we take care of the depth of our character, God will take care of the depth of our ministry.
2. We are to keep a conscience void of offense towards both God and man. A good conscience is the inner freedom you get knowing that no one can point a finger at you for wrongs that you have not tried to make right. (Acts 24:16)
3. A clear conscience does not mean that one is perfect. (1 Corinthians 4:6)
4. If there is success in ministry, somebody has paid a price.

C. God requires a heart that is willing to give up the best in order to bless. (Genesis 22)

1. Abraham epitomizes this with his willingness to offer up Isaac.
2. As a result of his trust in God, believers have been grafted in to the family of Abraham.
3. Deep surrender makes a lasting influence.

D. Our spheres of influence.

1. We must walk in God's ways for His truth to get out into the world.
2. You find a gather of believers who were multiplied and they will go somewhere. (Psalm 119:65, Acts 9:31)
3. God can make multiplication happen through faithful and obedient believers.

4. Jesus commanded to go and make disciples—you make disciples as you go. God brings the contacts into your life.
5. Pray Isaiah 49:25 and John 17:20—pray for your kids, grandkids, and those whom they will touch.
6. Missionary work requires being like Christ, loving and being more sympathetic with outsiders.
7. Small groups can have a global impact—this is where you start. (Luke 24:47)

Application questions

1. What principle does the example of Abraham teach us about ministry?

2. Which principle stood out to you concerning working within different spheres of ministry? Explain.

3. Why is character so important in claiming the blessing of a great sphere of ministry? What will you do this week to take a step forward in your character development?
