

# MINISTERING TO PEOPLE “ON THE ROAD”

STEVE DOUGLASS .....

*One of the wonderful benefits to being on the road is that we encounter new people, many of whom need the Lord or need the encouragement of a fellow believer.*

Jesus was on the road a lot, and many of His ministry opportunities arose in that context.

In John 4 we see Jesus traveling from Judea to Galilee through Samaria. As He rested by a well near Sychar, He encountered a Samaritan woman. The end result was that she and many other Samaritans became believers.

On another occasion Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. Zacchaeus was the wealthy chief tax collector of Jericho who climbed up into a tree to be able to see Jesus as He passed by. To this man's surprise, Jesus stopped in front of the tree and said, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today” (Luke 19:5). After spending some time with Jesus, Zac-

chaeus experienced a deep change of heart, which caused Jesus to observe, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:9-10).

One of the benefits to being on the road is that we encounter people who need the Lord or the encouragement of another believer.

Some time ago I was flying from Frankfurt to Chicago. As I struck up a conversation with the woman sitting next to me, I discovered that her husband was in the Army in Iraq. He had been there for three months and was going to be there another year. She was distraught, to say the least, so I gave her a copy of my book *Enjoying Your Walk with God*, because the subtitle is *How to Live Above Your Everyday Circumstances*.


As the conversation continued, I sensed she was already a Christian but needed to know how to appropriate God’s power and peace. So we walked through the part of the book that explains the Spirit-filled life. At the end she prayed and asked God to give her His peace through the power of His Spirit. She was crying, so she pulled out her compact and began to dry off her cheeks.

Then all of a sudden she turned to me and said, “I’ve been praying for you for the last week.”

“Excuse me?” I said. “We just met.”

She said, “I know, but a week ago I prayed that God would send someone to explain to me how to walk with Him.”

God is amazing! He orchestrates circumstances so we can share what we know about Him so people can come to walk with Him.

Pray that God will prepare the hearts of strangers and bring them across your path as you are on the road. 

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