

Most Important Lesson in Ministry

The most important lesson that I have learned in ministry is actually one of the most basic and fundamental ideas of our faith. It was etched into my understanding as I embraced the initial call to ministry, and has governed my personal devotion ever since. As I stepped into leadership years ago, I tried to drown myself in books, training, and conferences, desperately trying to overcome my inadequacy for ministry. During that time, the Lord graciously cut through all of the distractions and impressed a clear conclusion on my heart: *Everybody needs Jesus*.

Admittedly, I did not have the discernment to understand the Lord's intention for those words. I processed it as an evangelistic imperative, knowing the urgency of reaching a world that is perishing without Christ. Those who have Jesus are responsible to share Him with those who need Him. But this dichotomy - between those who *have Jesus* and those who *need Jesus* - cultivates a dangerous conclusion for believers. At no point in the life of a Christian do we ever graduate from needing Jesus. In fact, the gospel itself holds value for believers beyond their initial confession of faith. No true believer can stand on the confidence of having the presence of Christ in their lives, without also acknowledging their need for Him as well. Unfortunately, we vacillate between the two realities - instead of embracing them together. Spiritual maturity is about increasing our dependence on God, not our independence from Him. The more we get to know Him, the more we know we need Him.

This is the lesson God prioritized for me early on, and one He continues to unpack for me today. The reality that everybody needs Jesus exploded in revelation for me, when I learned to include myself in the "everybody".