

Luke 5:31-32

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Going to church to only hang with your friends, is like a doctor going to the hospital to only hang out with other doctors.

Yet how many times do we do this? Now I'm just as guilty as the rest of you. But when we do that, we start to turn church into a club. Yes I agree that part of the purpose for the church is for us to get together with other Christians and for the equipping of the saints.

† **Ephesians 4:11-12** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*

But are we so busy being equipped and being stuck in our little clicks that we are missing those around us who need to be ministered to?

Let me let you in on a little secret that doctors don't really like to admit. And that is that doctors get sick too and they need to go to the hospital and see another doctor just like we do. That simply means that you and your friends may be strong Christians, but it still doesn't mean that you or other Christians don't need the healing power of the Lord in our life at times too.

But do we ignore those around us not knowing that they are hurting or in need? Or do we not even know that they are hurting and in need, because we figure if they are at church, or they are a strong Christian, then they must be ok?

I remember one time when I was in Calif. and they were doing a baptism on the beach. I noticed this couple that I had seen at church a couple times before, just off to themselves there on the beach instead of with the rest of the crowd who were a part of the baptism. So I walked over to the two of them and started talking to them. I soon found out that they had been going to the church for a short time now and that they were believers. Long story short, we became good friends and they became part of other close friends that I have there. And over time we ministered to each other and became a strong group of Christian friends. But if I had never walked over to talk to them, I would have missed out on this wonderful friendship with them. Later in our relationship they still talk about how just one person cared enough to walk up to them and talk to them that made a difference in their lives.

But what if they were not believers, or they really needed someone to minister to them? Could I have ministered to them if I hung around with the other Christians and just blew them off?

In today's devotional verse Jesus says, *those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.*

How can we see those who are sick around us, whether physically or spiritually, unless we go outside of our little group or click that we have in church? Once again, I'm just as guilty, but also when I am in my group of friends at church, I also tend to look around while we are all gathered together talking there in church. I do so because, the Lord may point someone out to me that I should go say hi to. Once I do, I leave it up to the Lord what He wants to do next.

† **1 Corinthians 3:6-7** *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*