

What is Your Personal Ministry?

(video transcript)

By Karen Spiegelberg



Hi! Did you wake up with a pulse this morning? I'm assuming you did or you wouldn't be watching this show. And since you did wake up this morning then God still has a plan for your life—a plan for your personal ministry.

I'm Karen Spiegelberg. Welcome to A WORD for Women—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life!

So, just what is a personal ministry? It's yours as an individual Christian. It's exclusively associated with you, and it's the only reason you're still on this side of heaven. And, it's personal! What do I mean by "personal"?

In the movie, *You've Got Mail*, there's a line I love. At the point where Tom Hanks' family has built a big bookstore that puts the small bookstore owned by Meg Ryan's family out of business, Tom Hanks' character says to her, "It wasn't personal." To which she says, in part, "All that means is that it wasn't personal to you, but it was personal to me. And what's so wrong with being personal anyway?" And then she ends by saying, "I mean, because of whatever anything else is, it ought to begin with being personal."

That's where our personal ministry begins. By first being personal with Jesus through his word, out of thankfulness for what Jesus has done for us—died on the cross to save us from our sins! We are changed women! And because we are changed women, we act differently to every person and every situation in our daily lives. Our personal ministry is showing the love of Jesus in every aspect of our daily lives whether it's serving others in love or sharing the Gospel at opportune times.

So, what is your personal ministry? God has already chosen specific, daily tasks for each of us—whether it's in our family, church, or community. And although it's hard sometimes to see the value in these common requirements, God is using them for his purposes. So, as we get personal with the Lord in his word, instead of asking "what remarkable task do I want to tackle for God today?" a better question would be to ask in humility, "God, what do you want me to be and do in my routine world today?"

What does that world bring? Mundane things? Is it cleaning day? Do you need to take the garbage out to the street? Are you heading off to work to be with an unbelieving coworker who is difficult to work with and be around?

Let's go to the other spectrum. You're organizing the first contemporary music service at your congregation or you just volunteered to go overseas on a mission trip to show the Gospel in remote parts of Africa. Yeah, that's the big stuff we want to say. That's the stuff my personal ministry should be made of. That other stuff, you know like taking out the garbage that doesn't sound too glamorous, does it? That's what I used to think.

I was in the laundry room one day scrubbing my daughter's racing shoes. She wears these special light racing shoes with spikes, and when they're running cross country races in parks well...there are usually ponds and where there are ponds there are geese and where there are geese there's plenty of...well, yeah you guessed it—goose poop. First you're probably asking why am I even scrubbing these shoes. Well, if you don't occasionally scrub the ... whatever out of the shoes, it practically cements the spikes the spikes in, and when they get to a place where they don't need the spikes, it's nearly impossible to get them out. So there I was scrubbing away with my rubber gloves and chunks were a-fly'n and I'm thinking, "I have a college degree—what's wrong with this picture!"

And then another picture came to my mind—a picture of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Now you want to talk nasty! Those guys only wore sandals and walked many miles in the heat. But there he was, our Lord and Savior of the world humbly washing their feet and he did it in true love. Hmmm, suddenly goose poop on racing shoes didn't seem so bad.

In John 13 verses 12 through 17 we read in part, **"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. ...you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you..."**

Showing the love of Jesus in everything we do, that's our personal ministry. So, let's talk about those mundane things again. Cleaning day, do you show the love of Jesus in how you care for the home he's given you? How about taking out the garbage? Do you shuffle down the driveway hoping no one will see you in your pink bunny slippers? Or do you stop to take the time to wave at a neighbor and say, "Good morning and God bless your day!" Or, "I heard your mother's ill; I'll keep her in my prayers." How about working with a difficult coworker who's an unbeliever? Can you ask the Lord to let his light shine through you? Maybe that coworker is going through some rough times and just needs someone to show them they care.

Whether it's from one end of the spectrum to the other, thank you Lord for all of it! Thank you for another day to do your will and accomplish things for your kingdom. Thank you for my personal ministry. Have trust in the words of Psalm 138 [ESV] which reads, **"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;"** Never forget that God has called you for an eternal purpose. Don't miss his assignment for your life. He has a plan for you! And trust that he will always be with you every step of the way.

Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women. God bless you in your personal ministry as you go out and live for him.

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