



# New York Conference Women's Ministries Two women met for tea...

## Caring for Women

### What it really means

Sometimes in our rush to evangelize women, usher them into the church, we overlook the hurt, need for education, lack of security that they may be experiencing. It can be uncomfortable to face the realities of another's life and we are tempted to offer trite solutions such as 'give it all to God', 'God will provide', or 'you just have to have faith'.

This is not the ministry model that Jesus gave us however. Read any story involving Jesus' time on earth and you are likely to find him doing one of two things: spending personal time with his Abba, and helping the people he encountered. Jesus was frequently found in the 'trenches' of life meeting the needs of people. He didn't shy away from leprosy-ravaged bodies seeking restoration, blind or crippled beggars, demon-possessed women, adulators, swindlers. He welcomed ministering to all. While others cringed and fell away, he met each person at their level, wisely ascertained their real needs and stepping forward brought hope and healing not just to their bodies but to their souls. He showed them Abba's love for them, Abba's value of them no matter what their life looked like. Without complaint. Without disdain. Without concern for what others thought.

This is the ministry we must also be engaged in when we are claiming to represent our Abba.

A familiar model of what motivates people is very appropriate to use when exploring how best to minister to the women God has placed in our lives. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs outlines a basic approach to the order in which people's needs must be met.

Starting at the bottom, the most basic needs must be filled first before one can work on the next level. This is actually what is meant when we say 'meet people at their needs'. This is true of you: as you consider how you can minister to others you must be certain your own needs are met as well. And it is true of the women you minister to: evaluate needs and meet those needs. It does no good to offer a Bible study to someone who does not have food, shelter, safety. In these instances you must mirror the ministry Jesus had and meet the needs presented to you. You are a living study of God's love and care. Reflect that love to women in an authentic, real way, and you will be preaching the most effective sermon ever!



#### Books

- Women Counseling Women
- Leading Women to the Heart of God
- Women Gifted for Ministry
- Kitchen Table Counseling
- Shepherding a Woman's Heart
- The Power of a Woman's Words

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19  
*You are in our prayers as you Minister to the needs of women*  
Blessings,  
Lynne & Tina