

Series: Those People
Message #1: Those “Overly Needy” People

Introduction:

- Who are THOSE people?
 - Today... Those Overly Needy People
 - Next... Those Manipulative People
 - Then... Those Hypocritical People
 - Lastly... Those Critical People
- **We must acknowledge... at one time or another... we are all THOSE people.**
 - Good news... God loves those people.
 - He shows us how to love & care for people.
- **When you think of people in need... we go straight to...**
 - Financial needs... Especially in our economy.
 - People without work... No insurance...
 - Struggling to make ends meet.
- **BIG part... let’s think about EMOTIONALLY needy people.**
 - You know someone where EVERYTHING is drama.
 - Always the victim... people against them...
 - Talk on the phone... everything is fine...
 - You hang up and they call back... Is everything okay?
 - Call and leave an 8-minute VM message
 - If that’s you... we’re talking about you.
 - **These are People that think...**
 - World is falling apart... I’m in trouble...
 - I don’t know what to do... DRAMA!
 - **Thinking of someone right now??? DON’T POINT!**
 - Illustration: Jerry McGuire...
 - He said: You Complete Me.
 - We often say to people: You Deplete Me
- **Truth is... we come across THOSE people...**

- People in need... Often!
- We must minister to them in a healthy way...
- Or we hurt them... and ourselves.
- **For Me... I want to help someone... so I do...**
 - But it often isn’t right... or enough...
 - So I do more... they still don’t think it’s enough...
 - So I pull back... Not doing that anymore.
 - Then they resent me... I feel guilty...
 - In the end... they aren’t better off and I’m worse.
- But Why... I wanted to help!!!
 - But didn’t do it in the right way.
- **Question: How can we help people in a way that is REALLY helpful?**
 - Let’s build a couple of definitions.

Relief vs. Restoration

- **RELIEF: IMMEDIATE & TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE.**
 - When Tragedy Hits... Unexpected loss...
 - We are GOOD at this...
 - Flood... Hurricane... Tornado... Earthquake...
 - We send money...
 - Loses a job or cancer... or loss in the family.
 - We help some!
 - **What we really should do is...**
 - We should AMBUSH them with the love of God!!!
Perfect for Hope Teams!!!
 - Temporary Assistance in Tragedy... GREAT at this...
- **RESTORATION: WORKING WITH PEOPLE TO RESTORE THEM TO THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.**
 - We are horrible at Ongoing Restoration...
 - Our nation is even worse...

- We've let our government lead us by their example & its failing!
- **This is NOT doing something FOR them...**
 - But work with them... to RESTORE them.
 - Not good because it takes time & effort!
- **This is working months or years with an addict.**
 - Hooked on drugs or alcohol... but you stay...
 - Get them into rehab...
 - Give them accountability...
 - Watch them get sober... THEN FAIL!
 - Then... start all over again.
 - **Then, FINALLY, after a long period of time...**
 - Many Ups & Downs
 - Tons of Tears & Celebrations...
 - By the power of God they become clean...
 - That is the power of Restoration... God used YOU to restore them.
- **This is the Chronically Insecure person...**
 - Meet my needs... love me... value me...
 - Give me a friend... I'm so lonely!
 - **You take time & disciple them...**
 - They get to a point where their security comes from who God says they are and not themselves.
- **This is the person always struggling financially...**
 - They're always broke and need money!
 - You could give them \$500... and often Do!
 - But they don't need relief... Don't need \$500.
 - They need restoration.
 - **The money you give only lasts a few days...**
 - Then they are in trouble again...
 - \$500 doesn't solve a problem.
 - What they need is a budget...
 - More income... fewer expenses... A PLAN!

- It took years to get in trouble... years out.
- **The problem is... when we want to help...**
 - We want to offer relief...
 - But we should offer restoration.
- **Great story of Restorers in Scripture...**
- Then 3 prayers for people who want to be restorers...
 - **Acts 3:1-8 – 1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.**
 - This guy was in significant need...
 - People offered relief over and over again...
 - **3 common places to beg...**
 - Highways...
 - In front of homes of wealthy...
 - But the BEST... TEMPLE!
 - Pharisees loved to give publically.
 - **3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.**
 - His whole life... People gave MONEY!
 - He Got what he thought he needed... RELIEF.
 - **6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to**

walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

- They helped bring restoration... worked with him...
 - Not a handout... but a hand up...
 - They worked WITH him and God restored.
- **We often work for and not with...**
 - Because we think we are the necessary ingredients for them to get better.
- **We place ourselves in the role of a FUNCTIONAL SAVIOR.**
 - You need me to save you... I have the answer... solution.
 - We think... If I don't meet your needs no one will...
- **THREE PRAYERS OF A RESTORER**
 - When we pray we are put in our right place...
 - We aren't the restorer... God is the restorer...

1) GOD, HELP ME GIVE PEOPLE WHAT THEY TRULY NEED NOT JUST WHAT THEY WANT.

- a. **Acts 3:6 – Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**
- b. People will tell you what they think they need...
 - i. But often it's just what they want!
 - ii. **We must pray for wisdom to go beyond what they say... and beyond what you feel...**
 - iii. We must discern the real and specific need.
- c. **I need money... God says... No... they need a job...**
 - i. A real job... 40 hours a week.
 - ii. If you give them money over and over...
 - iii. They are going to stay on their couch.
 - iv. **We must let God lead us to give people what they need... So they will be restored.**
- d. **Recently had someone tell me...**
 - i. I need \$580 to make my car payment...

- ii. They are going to come get my car...
- iii. No... you don't need a \$35,000 car...
- iv. You need to sell your \$35k car buy a \$3500 car!
- v. You are in bondage to the car.
- vi. **I'm not helping you pay for something that is going to hurt you in the long run.**

e. Story of Lady in Houston!

- i. I can give her relief... but not restoration.
- ii. So I send her in a direction to get her restoration.
- iii. She's mad... I can't help that!

f. I must give people what they NEED... Not WANT!

2) GOD, HELP ME STAY OUT OF YOUR WAY BY NOT CONTINUALLY RESCUING PEOPLE FROM THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

- a. God set up a system of reaping and sowing...
 - i. Consequences... for our good... to all sinful actions.
 - ii. **Galatians 6:7 – Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**
- b. **He designed a system of sowing stupid seeds...**
 - i. You reap stupid harvest.
 - ii. Too often... we try to rescue people...
 - iii. Our biggest biggest mistake is often rescuing our kids when they are young.
 - iv. **It's insane how we protect our kids so much!**
- c. **Picture Illustrations:**
 - i. Picture of hands...
 - ii. Picture of crib tent...
 - iii. My crib tent with 4 kids!
 - 1. It works like crazy... they do have a twitch...
 - iv. Picture of the Pee Pee Tee Pee...

v. Wrong picture!

1. That kid needs help!

d. What happens though...?

i. Over and over and over our kids do something or DON'T do something...

ii. We bail them out...

1. Science Project... I'll do that for you!

iii. Trouble at school... Wrecked car... Don't want to commit child abuse...

iv. Consequences... I love you but your 28...

1. Get off my sofa...

v. I'll teach you how to fold underwear...

e. Prodigal son... Luke 15...

i. Went crazy... woke up in the pigpen...

ii. Dad didn't bail him out.

iii. Loved him enough to leave him there...

iv. So he could come to his senses...

v. People think...

1. If you love me you'll rescue me...

vi. NO... Because I love you I am not rescuing you!

f. Some people have to learn the hard way!

3) GOD, HELP ME REMEMBER THAT I'M IN NEED TOO AND THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS THE ANSWER.

a. Recognize you are in need to!

i. Psalm 70:5 – Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

b. When you realize you are in need to...

i. You remember you aren't the savior & Jesus IS!

ii. We must take ourselves out of the role of functional savior.

iii. Stop trying to figure it all out...

iv. Instead... point people to Jesus.

v. Problem is... If you think God needs you to meet everyone else's needs...

vi. Then your God is too small!!!

c. You are not God... but the CONNECTOR to the source!

i. The one who really is God and can heal!

d. We are the conduit of the Holy Spirit...

i. This is why SIN is so dangerous... We get clogged up with Sin and can't allow the Holy Spirit to flow.

e. When you think, "I'm needed, I'm necessary, I'm this!"...

i. You over inflate your ego and you dilute your ability to connect them to the true power Source.

f. You want to remember you're in need, just go to a third-world country.

i. Go to the poorest place you can find....

g. You walk in feeling good for a while...

i. Rich person here to help the poor.

ii. So poor... no toilet... no running water... horrible..

iii. 2 or 3 days you hurt with, for them

h. Then a switch.

i. Suddenly... the more you do for them the more they do for you!

ii. The more you give... the more you receive...

i. That's NOT what I expected... then you stop and think...

i. Wait... they are broke and empty... but they have something I don't.

ii. The strangest JOY is in the middle of nowhere!

iii. Their CONTENTMENT is amazing.

1. You are miserable with STUFF everywhere!

iv. They have NOTHING... yet they have

EVERYTHING!

j. Suddenly you realize... I'm in need to... yes... I can give... but I can receive to!

- i. We must realize that we are mutually in need...**
 - 1. Mutually broke... shattered... sad...
- ii. I realize then that I have 2 things in common with these people!**
 - 1. We are both screwed up!!!
 - 2. We both need God!!!
- iii. We can help point each other to the ONE that we truly need!**

- Our answer is not anything in this world...
- But it is what God provides... through HIS people...
- By HIS GLORY... for His Namesake...
- **When we get there...**
 - Suddenly, we can be restored to our God given potential
 - To be who Jesus created us to be.
 - To make HIS name known through the earth.
 - That is how God is going to use you to make a difference.

Conclusion:

- **I need you to hear this about me...**
 - Sometimes it's VERY lonely at the top.
 - I appreciate compliments... the love... the appreciation!
 - Don't hold me up on some pedestal...
- **Because I am in need!**
 - I am a sinner saved by the Grace of Christ.
 - I am mutually in need...
 - I need prayer... encouragement...
 - Forgiveness... support... friendship...
- **I don't have all the answers... I am mutually in need...**
 - When we get there... Realizing we are BOTH in need!
 - If you see me in need and I humble myself...
 - You can help me connect to God in a way that I need!
- **Suddenly I am not offering money for short term relief help.**
 - But we are in Biblical community together...
 - Doing life together...
- We all want to be significant... make a difference...
 - But we must first realize that we are in NEED!
- **AND... Virtually EVERY need that we have can be met by God through HIS people.**
 - When each of us HUMBLE ourselves and realize...
 - Speaking the fact that we are MUTUALLY in need of a Savior...