

SHOW UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

How to Walk Alongside People in Their Hardest Seasons

Main Text: Romans 12:15

Supporting Texts: Job 2:11-13; Galatians 6:2

★ BIG IDEA

Sometimes the greatest ministry is not what you say—it is simply showing up and staying present.

Key Movement:

👁️ SEE → 🚶 SHOW UP → 👂 LISTEN → 🤝 HELP

🎯 INTRODUCTION — WHO SHOWED UP FOR YOU?

Think about one of the hardest seasons of your life.

Who showed up?

They may not have had answers.

They may not have fixed the problem.

But they came. They stayed. They listened.

Their presence said: “You are not alone.”

📖 Romans 12:15 — “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

Paul does not tell us to explain suffering or fix problems.

He calls us to enter their experience with love.

1. 👁️ SEE THEIR PAIN

“Mourn with those who mourn.” — Romans 12:15

Before caring for someone, we must first notice them.

People can look fine on the outside while carrying deep pain inside.

Jesus noticed people others overlooked.

EMPHASIS:

 Shepherding begins with seeing.

Christian care pays attention to people, not just programs.

2. **SHOW UP BEFORE YOU SPEAK UP**

 Job 2:13 — They sat with him seven days and said nothing... because they saw his suffering.

Job's friends could not remove his pain—so they sat with him.

Hurting people often do not need explanations.

They need presence.

Statements that heal:

“I’m here.”

“I’m sorry you’re hurting.”

“You don’t have to walk through this alone.”

EMPHASIS:

 Presence before explanation.

Sometimes the most powerful ministry is simply being there.

3. **FEEL WITH THEM**

Romans 12:15 calls us not just to feel for people but to feel with them.

 John 11:35 — Jesus wept.

Jesus knew the miracle was coming, yet He still entered their grief.

EMPHASIS:

 Knowing the answer does not cancel compassion for the pain.

Faith does not eliminate tears—faith and tears can coexist.

4. **HELP CARRY THE BURDEN**

 Galatians 6:2 — Carry each other's burdens...

A burden is something too heavy to carry alone.

We may not remove it, but we can help carry it.

Statements of care:

“I can’t remove your grief, but I can walk with you.”

“You don’t have to carry everything alone.”

EMPHASIS:

 We may not remove the burden, but we can help carry it.

5. **CARING DOES NOT MEAN FIXING EVERYTHING**

We are not called to solve every problem or become everyone’s counselor.

Sometimes care means helping someone find the right pastoral, medical, or professional support.

EMPHASIS:

 You are not their Savior. Jesus is.
Our responsibility: love faithfully, help wisely.

6. **FOUR SIMPLE MOVEMENTS OF CARE**

SEE

Notice the person and recognize the need.

SHOW UP

Let compassion move you toward them.

LISTEN

“Be quick to listen, slow to speak...” — James 1:19

Listen to understand, not to answer.

HELP

Ask what practical care would be helpful.

EMPHASIS:

SEE → SHOW UP → LISTEN → HELP

7. **CARE IS THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

Romans 12:15 is for the whole church—not just pastors.

Care flows through:

- Pastors
- Leaders
- Ministries
- Life Groups
- Believers

Jesus often cares for His people through His people.

EMPHASIS:

🌱 A caring church is not where the pastor cares for everybody—
but where everybody learns to care for somebody.

🚩 **CONCLUSION – SHOW UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST**

People may forget your advice.

They may forget your words.

But they will remember:

- You came.
- You sat down.
- You listened.
- You prayed.
- You stayed.

We cannot stop every storm.

But we can stand beside someone while the storm is happening.

☁️ Sometimes God does not ask us to stop someone's storm—He asks us to stand with them in it.

📌 **TAKE-HOME TRUTH**

SEE → SHOW UP → LISTEN → HELP

You don't have to fix their pain.

Show up, listen, love, and help them carry it.

Sometimes the greatest ministry is simply showing up when it matters most.