



## Does Copy/Paste Ministry Work?

### ▼ What box are we unpacking this week?

“We have to try this new thing...all the growing churches do it!”

Before coming on staff at a church in Chicago, I asked the interview team a very important question. WHY do you want to launch a new worshipping community?

The answer will always stick with me – they wanted to launch a new worshipping community because they kept losing people to the big non-denominational church down the road and they wanted to begin doing some of the same things that the “big church down the road” was doing with the hope that their own church would begin to grow again. They were hoping we could copy/paste some of the big church ideas, so that we could stop the decline in attendance.

But would that have worked? Does copy/pasting ministry from a different context to your own actually work?

This is the question we are tackling this week. I pray these resources and conversations can be helpful as you do ministry and can inspire you to help people experience heaven on earth, here and now.

### ▼ Creative Spark Video: getting the conversation started

*“I convinced our pastor that if we could just get LED lights installed, and maybe even a fog machine, people would start showing up in droves. In the end, he agreed to adding LED lights to the stage area, but the fog machine was a hard no.” –Ferne Rivera*

Check out [this weeks video](#) to get you started. Check out this weeks video to get you started. I, like many of you, have been tempted to just copy and paste the things that have worked in the past. But as you will see in this weeks video, that might not be the best thing to do.

[Watch Now](#)

### ▼ Industry Insight

*“What I was failing to learn was the obvious lesson: the teenagers at Small Town Church were not the same teenagers from College Church. They came from different social and economic backgrounds, had different interests, and had different assumptions about Christianity and Jesus Christ. To “copy and paste” ministry strategies from one context to another was a mistake that led to some growing pains in ministry.”*

[Don't Copy and Paste Your Ministry](#) by Jack Fitzgibbons

You had success at one church. Your ideas, your retreats, your lessons worked. So now that you are at a new place, do you use what already worked for you once or do you try something new? Check out [this article](#) by Jack Fitzgibbons titled Don't Copy and Paste Your Ministry. The insight shared here is so valuable.

### ▼ On A Weekly Basis (Devotional)

#### Does Our Context Influence How We Live Out Our Faith?

*“Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table.”*

**Matthew 26:6-7 (NRSV)**

An alabaster jar of very costly ointment is the point of contention in this story.

For the woman, there is no better time to use this jar of very costly ointment than in this moment as Jesus sits at the table. What better way to honor Jesus? What better way to acknowledge him as the son of God than by pouring this costly perfume on Jesus' head to anoint him.

For the disciples, that was not the right thing to do. In their mind, the ointment should have been sold for a lot of money and the proceeds given to the poor. What better use for this oil, right? Imagine the kind of impact that money could have made to help the poor.

Both are in the same room, in the presence of Jesus, looking at the exact same alabaster jar. And yet, they both see very different possibilities when they look at that alabaster jar. Why?...

[Click here to continue reading](#)

### ▼ Free Resource to Help Measure Vitality!

Are you still not convinced that context matters? If so, here is [a starting point](#). We use this worksheet to compare contexts and to assess if our ministry would work in a different setting.

[Download now](#) and get started. And as always, if you want to learn more, email me at [coachingforhereandnow@gmail.com](mailto:coachingforhereandnow@gmail.com) or visit [hereandnowcoaching.org](http://hereandnowcoaching.org)! Hope this has been helpful!

Now go and give the world a glimpse of  
*heaven!*



*Ferne Rivera*  
Coach | Consultant | Church Planter  
coachingforhereandnow@gmail.com  
www.hereandnowcoaching.org

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