## Dear Reader:

It is possible that somewhere on this earth there are leaders and readers who haven't read *The One Minute Manager* by Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson. This simple little book continues to sell vast numbers of copies each year because it continues to be very helpful to people.

The One Minute Manager is more than a book; it is a type of book as well, a genre which follows a clear formula. We have many examples of formula writing in our culture, from fairy tales to romance novels, from situation comedies to horror movies. Once the culture finds something that works, the pattern repeats. Blanchard and Johnson have written numerous sequels, all of which follow the pattern of the One Minute Manager either exactly or in a slightly expanded format. The One Minute Minister deliberately seeks to fit into this genre, both because it is very effective and as a form of praise and appreciation to these original authors.

The pattern is simplicity itself. A young prince or princess or manager is struggling, but has a desire to overcome difficulties and become excellent. This troubled person hears of someone who has become very successful in that chosen field, and decides to go to the expert to learn what can be learned from the master. Disciples have chosen mentors in this manner throughout history.

The disciple learns that the one minute master is happy to share the secrets of his success but also that the primary secret is that the master embodies and incarnates the method he teaches; success is not only learning but living the secrets. There are usually three secrets, and each one is embodied in a living example. The one minute master sends the disciple out to experience each of these persons, and then return to discuss what has been learned in each encounter. At the conclusion, the young disciple decides to embody the lessons learned and becomes a one minute master with all the attendant rewards that follow living the wisdom that has been received.

These books have been called parables because they teach at multiple levels. At the simplest level, they are a quick read and an interesting hour or two. Each concept, however simply it is presented, can be further contemplated and applied in life. Each concept has an inherent, coherent consistency. As one moves toward the heart of each concept by going deeper, layer after layer, each reader finds within the parable exactly what they need for their own lives. In a sense, each reader writes their own commentary on the parable, and in doing so customizes the truth of the parable for their own life and situation.

And it's no accident that Jesus chose to teach in parables, and that ministers of all types, including the One Minute variety, do well to imitate Him in all things.

It's my hope that this parable, *The One Minute Minister*, might accomplish much good in the lives of people who read it. We live in hard times which are made harder by how we manage our time; it's my hope and prayer that the three secrets I share might help us all to anchor our lives to what brings them meaning, our spirituality, and so weather the storms that challenge our little boats.