What is Being Outwardly Focused

Simple commands given by Jesus to His disciples at the very beginning and the very end of His earthly ministry and specialized training of them: Follow Me and Go, ye therefore… In between these two commands, according to all four Gospel accounts, Jesus taught the disciples to take on an Outwardly Focused mindset that is committed to reaching the lost with the Good News of salvation by grace, primarily through engaging in meaningful relationships with the surrounding community, then branching out into all the world. It's a big job! But He taught them to take it step by step. They were to imitate Him and draw near to the marginalized, the needy, the sick, the poor, the lonely, the struggling, the seeking souls all around. Why? Perhaps because the hearts of these folks were the most receptive to the message of grace, hope and forgiveness. Are we not His disciples as well? Is it not our calling and our challenge to see anew those people from whom we would be tempted to "pass by on the other side" as in the parable of the Good Samaritan?

Think about it:

Who is God placing in my path?
How can I minister to him or her or them?
What are some first small steps to building relationships with them?