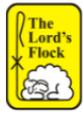


“Beating Busyness”

(Thieves of Prayer, Part 2)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, shows us how to manage our lives in today's busy world. Let us follow the Jesus pattern: “early to bed and early to rise.”

1. What is Jesus' typical working day?

- 1.1. He prays first. He is up as the cock crows and goes to a quiet isolated place to pray (Mk. 1:35). His divine nature does not stop Him from communicating with His Father.
- 1.2. He knew His mission - the business of His Father. Nothing could stop Him from what He had to do. Even when He was hungry or exhausted, He continued to travel and preach.
- 1.3. Similarly, our busyness should not distract us from praying and talking to God (Mt. 6:5-13).

2. Thief # 1: BUSYNESS is a thief.

- 2.1. We live in a fast-paced culture, and we keep up.
- 2.2. We over commit. We are eager to add more accomplishments that give meaning to our lives.
- 2.3. Workaholics like to stay busy to avoid dealing with unconfessed sin or to silence pain or emptiness.
- 2.4. Regardless of the reason, we must pause, step back and review our lifestyles. Are we living according to the will of God?

3. What are the consequences of BUSYNESS?

- 3.1. **It damages our personal relationship with the Lord;** He longs to have a close connection with us. He has planned specific tasks for us (Eph. 2:10). We need to consider if our schedules hinder our relationship with God.
 - Serving the Lord is not a substitute for devoting time talking with God (Lk. 10:38-42).
 - Let us talk to the Lord about our many plans and let Him tell us the way to go; let us surrender our plans.
- 3.2. **It keeps us from participating in God's will.** If we fail to set aside time to seek God's direction, we will not see His will.

3.3 Who controls our schedule?

- 3.3.1 world values (2 Cor. 4:4); outside forces (1 Jn. 2:15; Jas. 4:4);
 - 3.3.3 others to whom we yield control of our agenda (Josh. 24:15, Rom.6:16);
 - 3.3.4 strong self-will or urge to be our own boss.
- 3.4 We need to surrender our calendar to His hands (Gen. 21). God will not reveal everything right away; thus, we must keep talking to Him every day.

4. What is the cost of our busy lifestyle?

- 4.1 We should get off the treadmill and instead, walk with the Lord.
- 4.2 We must become familiar with the Scripture. God gives us discernment to enable us to make good choices.
- 4.3 We need to wait on the Lord, obey, and leave the consequences to God.

5. Jesus is saying to us:

- 5.1 Start the day early when we have a busy day.
- 5.2 Commence with morning devotion. Choose a quiet place - isolated from distractions. Let us accompany our prayer with praise songs.
- 5.3 List down what we need to do and pray for each activity.
- 5.4 Intercede for others.
- 5.5 Study God's word with a devotional guide and journal.

Conclusion: Being busy is not always bad: ministering to the church and serving the community are worthy endeavors. However, we should not let busyness for whatever reason, keep us from our prayer time with the Lord.

Reflection:

1. Does your schedule include time for building a deep relationship with your Creator?
2. Are you doing the work God has planned for you or are

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