

JESUS - A BUSY LIFE

Introduction:

1. We hear people talk about how busy they are these days. How often we hear and make this statement. It is true that these are busy days; life seems to become more complicated by the hour.
 - a. There doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day nor enough days in the year to do all that we wish to do.
 - b. And it seems that each person has a tendency to feel that he is a bit more busy than anyone else.
2. However, no person who is familiar with the Gospel accounts would want to claim that he is living a life that is filled with more business than was the life of our Lord. His life was the most busy life every lived on this earth.
 - a. Even while a child he felt an urgency to be about his **"Father's business"** - Luke 2:49. This is the first recorded statement that we have from the lips of Jesus.
 - b. Later he said, **"I must work the works of him that send me while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."** – John 8:4.
 - c. Again he said, **"My meat is to do the will of him that send me, and to finish his work."** - John 4:34. What a constraint he felt! How urgent he felt his task to be! How busy he would have to be!
3. But at the close of his life, he calmly says to the Father, **"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do"** – John 17:4. Finally on the cross, he declared, **"It is finished,"** - John 19:30.
4. There are some activities which we feel we are too busy to do but which Jesus considered to be a part of his work. There are some observations which we now wish to make concerning the things Jesus did, even though he was busy— some things he was not too busy to do.

Jesus's life was a busy life, but he was...

1. Not Too Busy to Pray

1. We are told that **"Jesus, being baptized and praying..."** - Luke 3:21. We find Jesus praying at the beginning of his personal ministry and at the close of it. And his daily life was constantly punctuated with periods of prayer.
 - a. He often sought solitude that he might be alone with his Father that he might commune with him in prayer! **"And as he was alone praying . . ."** - Luke 9:18.
2. One great man said, "I have so much to do today that I shall never get it done unless I spend some time in prayer."
 - a. Another has said, "If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than you ought to be."
3. Do you pray often? True prayer is not a matter of saying a memorized prayer just before one goes to sleep; it is a matter of lifting up one's heart to God in supplication at various times in the midst of our many activities.

- a. He who prays only while on his knees does not pray enough! This is a matter of concerning which we all would do well to pause and meditate upon; how much time do we actually spend in prayer?

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2. Not Too Busy to Observe the Beauties of God's Handiwork in the World of Nature

1. Jesus was not too busy to pause and look at the birds of the heaven and the lilies of the field. He remarked that God cares for the birds and that he clothes the lily with the a glory surpassing that of Solomon - Matt. 6:26-29.
 - a. Jesus was busy but he never seems to be in a hurry! He has time to pause and look at the wonderful works of God and to draw lessons from them.
 - b. We are reminded of the psalmist who saw the glory of God in the heavens - Psa. 19:1.
2. A contemporary writer, Vance Havner, tells of his love for roaming among the trees and of meditating upon the glories of the earth. He says some people look at him as if he were out of his mind since he does not carry a fishing pole, camera or a gun!
 - a. It is no mark of spirituality to be forever on the run with no time for God's world. Jesus was not that busy!

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3. Not Too Busy to Attend a Social Event

1. It was a marriage feast in Cana that Jesus performed the first of his mighty works. There, midst mirth and laughter, he launched his ministry of miracles - John 2:1-11. It is true that such events did not form a major part of his schedule, but it is interesting to observe that he had time for such.
 - a. Jesus was a social being and associated with men. He **“increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”** - Luke 2:52.
2. Man is a social being and needs to associate with his fellow men. An old proverb says that “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” This is true. There is a need for recreation, for play, for something other than the rigorous schedule which many follow.
 - a. Yes, he who plays all the time and does no work is very intemperate and has no right to eat; but isn't the person guilty of intemperance who works to the extent that he abuses his body and endangers his health?
 - b. Brother R.C. Bell, an old teacher at Abilene Christian used to say often, “Blessed is the man who can keep himself in proportion.”

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4. Not Too Busy To Attend a Funeral

1. After Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead, he went to the home of Mary and Martha; he went with them out to the grave side and wept with them - John 11:14-35. What a scene! Jesus, the Lord of life and the maker of the worlds weeping! And why? Did he not know that he could raise Lazarus back to life?
 - a. There seems to be only one answer to the tears of Jesus: he wept out of pure human sympathy.
2. It should be a part of the life of every Christian to stop and render assistance to those who have lost loved ones, to **“weep with them that weep”** - Rom. 12:14; 1Cor. 12:26. It means so much to one who has experienced a great loss to feel a handclasp or to see a tear in another's eye.
3. One reason so many become calloused and unfeeling is that they avoid any contact with death. Some have not attended a funeral in years. It is little wonder that they become forgetful about death. It would do them good to hold the hand of a dying person or to see a person die.
 - a. It would do them good to attend a funeral more often and to be made to realize that death is still real and very near to all of us.
 - b. It is good to go out to the cemetery and stroll about once in a while. Reading the epitaphs can be quite interesting and strengthening. Here lies those who were strong, weak, rich, poor, beautiful, powerful. They once had their days of joy and sorrow; they had their successes and failures.
 - c. A cemetery is a place that seems to make one's troubles much smaller. Here is a place where one is reminded again of what is important and what is trivial.

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5. Not Too Busy To Give Attention To Sick People

1. Many who were sick were brought to Jesus, but it is also true that Jesus went to many who were sick. He found time to do this.
 - a. It has been said, that “One visit is worth a basketful of letters.” There are times when a letter or a card is appropriate, but usually a visit is more fruitful.
2. I have known of people who never attached much importance to this until they were in the hospital and other Christians visited them. They then realize how negligent they have been. Do you think that you don't have time for this?
3. Remember Jesus had time for it! And let us also remember the judgment scene pictured in Matthew 25. In that day Jesus will say, **“You visited me,”** or he will say, **“You visited me not.”** We visit him by visiting people.

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6. Not Too Busy To Find A Quiet Time

1. Jesus filled his life with seasons of solitude. **“He went into a solitary place and there prayed.”** - Mark 1:35. **“He departed into a mountain to pray”** - Mark 6:46. **“When evening was come he was there alone.”** – Mark 14:23.
 - a. He said to the disciples, **“come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile.”** – Mark 6:31. It has been said that the devil never takes a vacation. This may be true, but we are to follow Jesus and not the devil. Jesus drew apart at intervals to rest.
2. In an age of crowds and noise we need to take some time to be alone with God. Punctuate your life with seasons of solitude. Get away from the ignoble strife of the crowd.
 - a. We should learn to do this often and realize that we cannot feverishly rush ourselves to the breaking point and expect to overcome all the damage with a two week vacation once a year.
 - b. We need to learn to draw apart and commune with God daily. We need to develop faith in God to the extent that we can put up our troubles for the day when we lie down at night.
 - c. Jesus said that worry and anxiety are an evidence of little faith – Matt. 6:30-34. Greater faith in God will give to any person a greater serenity of mind and tranquility of heart.

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7. Not Too Busy To Give Attention To One Person

1. In his teachings Jesus gave emphasis to the importance of the individual, and he gave this same emphasis by way of example in his life. Think of some of the great lessons Jesus taught such as the one on the new birth, or the lesson on true worship. These were not delivered before huge crowds; they were given to one person – to Nicodemus and to the Samaritan woman – John 3:1ff; John 4:5-24.
 - a. Jesus did not consider these persons an interruptions of his business; he considered them a part of his business.
2. The true follower of Jesus has time for the individual; he has time to care about the burdens and the needs of the one. He does not serve only in cases where a large audience is involved or only where public recognition is possible.
 - a. He does not look upon a person coming to him with a problem as an interruption of his work, for he sees that as part of his work.

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8. Not Too Busy to Place His Hand Upon the Head of a Child

1. Jesus loved children and had time to stop and bless them and lay his hands upon them –

Matthew 19:13-14; Mark 10:16. The story is related of Bobby Burns that he once saw a small boy following him and turned around to ask him what he wanted. The boy replied, "I want to grow up and be a great writer like you are, and have people talking about me like they talk about you."

a. The great poet encouraged the little boy with the words, "You will one day, I'm sure." And later when that little boy, Walter Scott, had grown up and was at the height of his career, he looked back to that day and spoke the name of Bobby Burns with gratitude because he had spoken an encouraging word to the heart of a little boy.

2. It has been said that "No man is ever quite so tall, as when he stoops to help a child."

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9. Not Too Busy to Attend Services

1. **"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read"** - Luke 4:16.

Attending a service of this kind was not an unusual thing at all in the life of Jesus; it happened **"as his custom was."** He attended regularly.

2. A vital part of the Christian life is regular attendance at worship services - Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25. Jesus promises to be in the midst of those who assemble in his name - Matt. 18:20. And those who stay away from such assemblies, in addition to missing a meeting with other Christians, also miss an appointment with the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. Are you too busy to attend worship services regularly? Remember, Jesus was not!

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10. Not Too Busy To Talk About The Eternal

1. Jesus lived a busy life, but he often spoke of the afterlife. **"In my Father's house are many mansions.... I go to prepare a place for you . . . and I will come again, and receive you unto myself ..."** John 14:2-4.

a. Thinking and talking about the home of the soul did not hinder his busy life, nor did it make his life any less useful.

2. Some are saying that we should concentrate upon this life and give no thought to what is to be after this life. How utterly wrong they are! yes, we must live today, but how valueless this life seems unless viewed in the light of what is to be.

a. One of the great reasons for the faithful endurance of Moses was that he saw **"him who is invisible"** - Heb. 11:27.

b. Paul could live as he lived and endure as he endured because he looked **"Not the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen"** - 2Cor. 4:18.

3. There hereafter . . .
 - 1) Heaven, serves to encourage us on to right living
 - 2) And hell discourages us from doing evil.we all ought to think on the afterlife some.

Conclusion:

1. Let us remember that though Jesus was very busy, he did not seem to be in a feverish hurry. He found time to do the will of the Father, and he considered the doing of the Father's will to consist of many activities which some regard a interruptions to the doing of that will.
2. If we are to be Christ-like, we must never be too busy to do these things which filled the life and Him who is our model.