

## ARE YOU TOO BUSY?

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Kings 20:38-43**. From Roy H. Enoch (02-27-1994).
  - B. The setting of this incident was the war between Syria and Israel.
    - 1. God had given victory to Ahab, king of Israel, and commanded him to destroy Ben-Hadad, king of Syria.
    - 2. Ben-Hadad offered to give back the cities he had taken.
    - 3. Ahab made a covenant w/him and let him go in spite of God's orders.
    - 4. One of the sons of the prophets disguised himself and sat on the road where the king was to pass.
    - 5. He told the king that he was told to guard a prisoner, but "While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone."
    - 6. The king told him that his life was forfeited.
    - 7. The prophet told the king that he was the one (1Kgs. 20:42).
  - D. We have the same problem today that the prophet described of Ahab: we are "busy here and there," and neglect God's work.
    - 1. Too often we are in the same difficulty as Ahab.
    - 2. He was very busy, but he neglected the things that God said.
    - 3. We may let "urgent things" crowd out "necessary things."
      - a. The phone ringing is urgent. (And the door bell.)
      - b. Our work is urgent.
      - c. Our recreation or TV is urgent.
      - d. Our Bible study, worship, and service to God is MORE IMPORTANT: It is NECESSARY.
      - e. Being busy w/other people's business can be sinful (1Pet. 4:15).
      - f. Solomon warned about "busybodies" in Prov. 26:17.
    - 4. We need to be busy w/ the IMPORTANT and NECESSARY.
      - a. Jesus stayed busy, even at the age of 12 "with My Father's business" (Lk. 2:49).
      - b. Paul was busy in the work of the church and exhorts us to "Be diligent in business" (Rom. 12:11).
  - E. Our study is how we can lose everything by being too busy w/things that are only urgent.
    - 1. We may become too busy to use our opportunities.
    - 2. We may be so busy we lose our families.
    - 3. We may be too busy to do what is best for our friends.
    - 4. We may be so busy that we neglect the church.
    - 5. We may be so busy that we lose our souls.
- I. **WE MAY BECOME SO BUSY THAT WE MISS OPPORTUNITIES.**
- A. A child in school may become so involved in activities that he has no time to study.
    - 1. Social activities may keep one too busy.
    - 2. Athletics keep many too busy to study.
    - 3. Civic activities may take too much time.
    - 4. One may fail at academic work by being too busy.
  - B. One can be too busy "having fun" to prepare for an occupation.
    - 1. Getting a car has spoiled many educations.
    - 2. "Education: A four year loaf on Dad's dough."
    - 3. Smoking and drinking are likely to lower grades.
    - 4. I know of several athletic scholarships which kept students too busy for academic work.
  - C. The "pleasing self" philosophy keeps many from serving God.
    - 1. Those who do as they please, do not please God.

2. Many miss opportunities to study God's word to TV.
3. Many miss studying God's word to ball games.
4. Many miss the Bible class to sleep late. (That tells Jesus how much they care for Him.)
5. We can get too busy for God's blessings.

**II. WE MAY LOSE OUR FAMILIES BY BEING "BUSY HERE AND THERE."**

- A. Even some atheistic sociologists are seeing the consequences of the breakdown of the family.
  1. Parents who do not exercise their authority are not respected.
  2. Children who do not learn to obey authority will often be disrespectful of civil law and spiritual law.
- B. It is often easier to do for a child than to teach them to do for themselves.
  1. We may be too busy here and there to teach them to share.
  2. We may be too busy to teach them to take responsibilities for their actions.
  3. We may be too busy teaching them to be popular than to be honest and truthful.
  4. We may be too busy giving them things to teach them to love God and respect His word.
  5. We may be too busy protecting them to teach them to stand on their own two feet (Eph. 6:1-4).
  6. Some parents are too self-centered to train their children.

**III. WE MAY BECOME TOO "BUSY HERE AND THERE" TO CULTIVATE FRIENDSHIPS.**

- A. Friends are a great asset to any life. See Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 27:6,9.
- B. Making friends is an art and an effort.
- C. Someone has said, "A real friend is the person who knows all about you and still loves you."
- D. If we become careless about friendships, we will lose them.
- E. Jesus is your greatest friend (Jn. 15:14; 14:15).
- F. He will never forsake us, but we may leave Him (2Jn 9).

**IV. WE MAY BECOME SO "BUSY HERE AND THERE" THAT WE LOSE THE CHURCH.**

- A. The Lord's church is the most valuable institution on earth because it cost Him His blood.
  1. See Ac. 20:28.
  2. It is the body of X.
  3. Those who are saved are in it.
  4. To be in the church, which is His body, is to be in X.
- B. When we give our money and time to other organizations, we do not give glory to God.
- C. Too many can say, "While I was busy here and there, the church wasted away."

**V. WE MAY EACH BECOME SO "BUSY HERE AND THERE" THAT WE LOSE OUR SOUL.**

- A. Jesus described a rich farmer who made a bumper crop (Lk. 12:13-21).
  1. He tore down his barns or grain bins to build greater ones.
  2. See Luke 12:19. And that night he died.
- B. There are many like him in the world today (and in the church).
  1. Their focus is on the material things of the world.
  2. Their goal is to save up enough property, stocks and bonds that they can retire to a life of ease.
  3. Some neglect the Lord's work and worship to save for self.
- C. They are like the Russian fable that Tolstoy writes about.

A certain king promised a runner all the land he could run around from sun-up till sundown. He started at the first sight of the sun in the east and ran until noon. Beyond he saw a beautiful lake, a deep forest; "I must have those," he said. So he ran on and on, and then, w/the sun on the decline, started back to the golden stake from which he started. His friends had gathered to see him come in. Yonder he comes in the distance, but the sun is sinking fast. As the people cheer, just as the rim of

the sun disappears, he takes his last step and taps the golden stake. All the fine land, streams, lakes, forests, hills, valleys--all are his-- he has reached the pinnacle of success. Then suddenly he gasps, clutches his chest, and falls dead. He gained it all. He lost his life. What did he gain?

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. We are offered the blessings of heaven for eternity.
- B. God describes the conditions of receiving the gift.
- C. Will we become "busy here and there" and fail to accept it.
- D. Jesus says that He must be first in our lives (Mt. 10:37-39).
- E. Are we too busy for heaven?