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Busy, Busy, Busy

Not too long ago I contacted a friend mine via e-mail and asked how he was doing. His first three words in response were “Busy, busy, busy.” I laughed out loud as I read his words because I could just hear him saying it. Busyness can creep up on all of us. It happens before you really see it coming. And the next you know you feel like you’re on a merry-go-round. Constantly moving, but really going nowhere.

Sometimes it seems like the only way to get off is to jump. But let’s face it, that doesn’t look appealing. But we all know there are those times that we have to do something drastic or nothing will change at all. And the course we stay on will only increase in speed if something is not done.

So, is living life in the fast lane a sin? Not that we have seen. But it can have consequences. How often have we seen someone being told to hurry in the Scriptures when judgment or jubilation is not involved? Not too often.

We live in such a fast-paced world that if we aren’t matching the speed of others, we feel something is wrong. When in reality, it could be just the opposite. Yet, because we’re moving so fast, it’s hard for us to see it.

As I mentioned in our Sabbath Day teaching, I remember when our family first started observing the Sabbath. It was really hard. Talk about changing gears. The problem was that I hadn’t learned to value that day for what it was. And I think sometimes that can happen in our relationship with YHWH too. We can allow ourselves to get so busy that we forget just how much we treasure having Him.

Being too busy at anything will only draw us away from our time with the Father. Even being too busy in the work of YHWH can be a bad thing. I know that sounds like an oxy-moron. But it can be true. As we’ve said before, sometimes you can be so busy in the work of God that you forget the God of the work. It’s not that we shouldn’t work for Him. But we can’t let our relationship with Him ever take a backseat to anything. Even if we think we are doing something for Him.

When reading the book of Luke, we see that Yeshua himself spent a lot of time alone with the Father.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Plus, He tried getting the disciples away too, after they had been ministering...

Mark 6:7-13

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Then, notice what he said when they got back...

Mark 6:30-31

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Yeshua knew they needed to get away. The funny thing is, that time didn't come till much later as the crowds followed them to where they were going in this particular circumstance. The point being though, we need time alone with the Father. Everyday.

As with any relationship, the more time you spend with someone the stronger that relationship becomes. The stronger a relationship is, the more trust there is and it's easier to communicate and understand each other. Likewise in our walk with the Father. The more time we spend with Him, the better off we are.

We all have taken our relationship with YHWH for granted at one point or another. It's not that we mean to. However, living life with a specific intent and purpose of building that relationship will definitely help us in keeping it from happening again.

So don't just live life. Live life on purpose. Let us not be like the church of Ephesus in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 2:4

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

We simply have to make the time to meet with Him on a regular basis. No more excuses. Seriously. There will always be a reason. And many can be legitimate. But what do you want most? It all boils down to that.

I wish I could say that it's only us who are effected when we don't spend time with the Father. But that's not true. It will affect us first, yes. But if we persist in that new habit of not spending time with the Father, it will eventually start effecting those around us as well. Yet, at the same time, when we start spending that time we need with the Father, His blessings will naturally flow in our life and others will

notice His presence in us as well.

Psalm 37:4-7 (NIV)

Delight yourself in (Yahweh)the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to (Yahweh)the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before (Yahweh)the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Notice this isn't talking about the Sabbath. He's simply talking to us in general. Everyday life.

It seems that many believe that YHWH only speaks from the thundering clouds or that there will always be something huge take place when He speaks. But this is not always the case.

1 Kings 19:11-13

(YHWH)The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of (YHWH)the LORD, for (YHWH)the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before (YHWH)the LORD, but (YHWH)the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but (YHWH)the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but (YHWH)the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

The gentle whisper. That which can only be heard when one is listening. And remember, listening is not just hearing. It's hearing with intent. It's focused hearing. Listening for His gentle whisper is next to impossible when you're on the run. When you're always on the move. When our minds are filled with our personal "to do" lists for the day. When we're being constantly pulled from this or from that.

I can't tell you how many times I've talked to people over the years who told me that they were struggling with "burnout". My response to them was always, "Do you think the Father is truly leading you into burnout?" The answer is obviously no.

Though there will be those times where we may not hear His voice no matter how hard we try to listen, that does not mean that He's not there. In fact, it may be in those times that He's more attentive to our prayers than you may imagine. It could be simply a time of strengthening. Can you remain silent and faithful even if you don't hear His voice? Can you remain silent and faithful when times start getting hard and you don't hear His voice?

It's in those situations that we need to remain silent all the more. Yet, all too often our human nature wants to take over and take things into our own hands. And it is then where we see ourselves begin to run here. And then we begin to run there. And slowly but surely we find ourselves right back into the rat race we told ourselves that we'd never get into again. All because we CHOSE not to be still.

Consider what YHWH said to the children of Israel when Pharaoh pursued them at the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:14

(Yahweh)The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

"You need only to be still". When everything around you is saying you should panic, "You need only to

be still". When everything within you says you should take back up the reigns to get control of the situation, "You need only to be still." When the world may be crumbling down around you, "You need only to be still". When there seems to be no hope in your situation, "You need only to be still".

Start building that relationship with our Heavenly Father like never before. Let NOTHING get in the way. Nothing. Set your priorities right today. Make a list if you have to. Place "Time with the Father at the top. And let nothing get above it.

Don't let another day pass where you don't spend time with the Father. Don't let another day pass where you don't get your priorities set in place. To close out this message, we want to share a very popular poem that we believe bears repeating.

No Time To Pray - Grace L. Naessens

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task,
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me;
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

We hope you have enjoyed this study. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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