

“Crazy Busy”

Part 2

Luke 10:38-42

Feb. 19, 2023

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Application

1. The best seat is on the floor.
2. You will never end up at Jesus' feet by accident.
3. Just because you can do something, does not mean you ought to do something.
4. Mary chose the important over the urgent, the better over the good.
5. Are you too busy serving Him that you have no time to love Him & listen to Him?

"We live in the busiest culture in the history of the world. And we're busy all the time. There's stuff going on all the time. There are beepers going off and phones going off and iPads going off and iPods going off and cell phones going off and there's stuff going on all the time
My friends if ever there was a generation that needed a Lord's Day, it's ours. If ever there was a generation that needed the public worship of the Lord morning and evening on every first day of the week, every Sunday, it's ours because we are twenty-four/seven, three hundred and sixty five days a year busy, preoccupied with stuff"

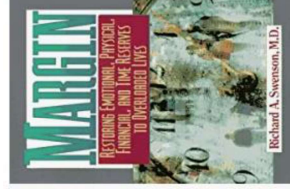
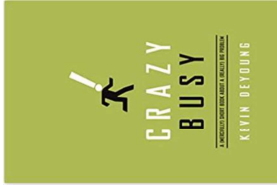
- Ligon Duncan

"I read an anecdote once about a woman from another culture who came to the United States and began to introduce herself as "Busy." It was, after all, the first thing she heard when meeting any American. Hello, I'm Busy— she figured it was part of our traditional greeting,"

- Kevin DeYoung

Application

6. We desperately need truth. We need for Jesus to feed us more than we need to feed Jesus.
7. We are all Marthas at some level.



“For most of us, it isn’t heresy or rank apostasy that will derail our profession of faith. It’s all the worries of life. You’ve got car repairs. Then your water heater goes out. The kids need to see a doctor. You haven’t done your taxes yet. Your checkbook isn’t balanced. You’re behind on thank you notes. You promised your mother you’d come over and fix a faucet. You’re behind on wedding planning. Your boards are coming up. You have more applications to send out. Your dissertation is due. Your refrigerator is empty. Your lawn needs mowing. Your curtains don’t look right. Your washing machine keeps rattling. This is life for most of us, and it’s choking out spiritual life.”

Application

6. We desperately need truth. We need for Jesus to feed us more than we need to feed Jesus.
 7. We are all Marthas. We are too busy.
 8. We have a tendency to judge based on busyness:
 - A person’s life: busy = successful.
 - A church: busy = healthy church.
- “Busyness does not mean you are a faithful or fruitful Christian. It only means you are busy, just like everyone else.

- Kevin DeYoung

9. The power of negative thinking. Just say “no.”

“Jesus didn’t do it all. Jesus didn’t meet every need. He left people waiting in line to be healed. He left one town to preach to another. He hid away to pray. He got tired. He never interacted with the vast majority of people on the planet. He spent thirty years in training and only three years in ministry. He did not try to do it all. And yet, he did everything God asked him to do.”

- Anon.

“We are busy because we try to do too many things. We do too many things because we say yes to too many people. We say yes to all these people because we want them to like us and we fear their disapproval.”

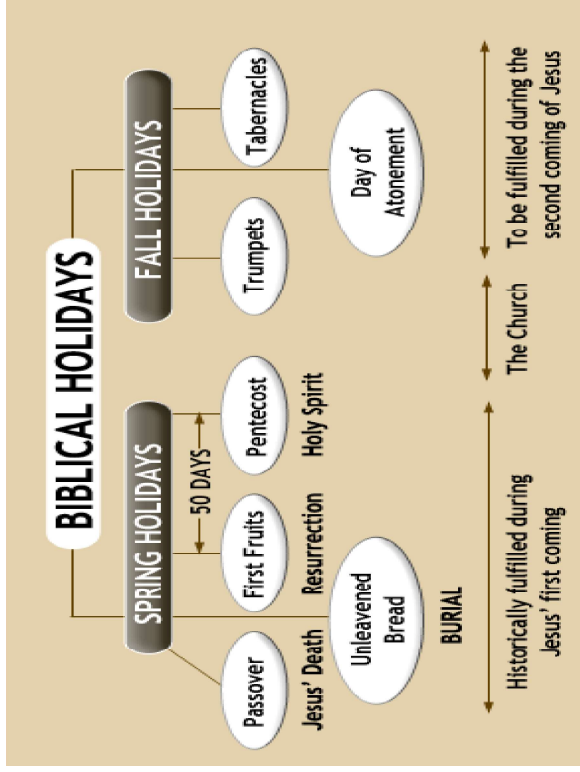
“God does expect us to say no to a whole lot of good things so that we can be freed up to say yes to the most important things he has for us.”

- Kevin DeYoung

Remember the principle of “Planned Neglect” – plan to do only those things that enable you to fulfill your biblical responsibilities and then neglect everything else.

10. God built into Israel’s yearly calendar times for feasting, fasting, days of rest including the sabbath (every 7th year the land was to remain untilled so it could be restored.) Israel was on a cycle that allowed for rest and time with God.

• Here is a look at Israel’s holidays/feasts . . .



11. Don't think of priorities in terms of a list.

Matt 22:37-40

37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."

38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 "The second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

"loving God" is the highest ranking responsibility we have.

"like" – links the 2 commandments as being equal in importance.

- The second commandment is also the "great and foremost commandment."
- To put it another way, there is no other commandment greater than these 2.
- I have 2 responsibilities: God and my neighbor.
- So this is not a list. A list has problems.
- We are to love God and love our neighbor all of the time. Give God top priority and give your neighbor top priority.
- Priority is not a good word because it indicates that something is more important than another. Responsibilities is a better word.
- The Bible identifies categories of responsibilities.
- The Bible is void of the language "which one takes priority over another?"

JEWISH FEASTS

Passover

Nisan 14

Unleavened Bread

Nisan 15

First Fruits

Nisan 16

Feast of Weeks

Sivan 6

Feast of Trumpets

Tishri 1

Day of Atonement

Tishri 10

Feast of Tabernacles

Tishri 15

The "list" approach:

1. God
2. Family
3. Church
4. Job
5. Friends
6. Self
7. Government
8. World

• The list says the ones listed toward the top are the most important.

• The Bible would say all of them are equally important. All of them are a #1 responsibility.

• It is not: loving God, **then** loving family, **then** loving church, **then** loving job, etc.

• When do you move from 1 to 2 or 2 to 3 or 3 to 4?

• The Bible teaches that we love all of them at the same time.

• Responsibilities may and will differ on a daily or weekly basis as I organize my time to fulfill those responsibilities and deal with the unexpected.

• My responsibility is to keep my life in biblical balance, to make sure I am taking care of all of my responsibilities.

• I am loving God therefore **when** I am obeying His word in each of these responsibilities. Therefore, I am not neglecting God, when I am obeying Him.

John 14:15

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1 John 4:20-21

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

• **Therefore:**

I love God by spending time studying His Word and praying.

I love God by loving my husband or wife.

I love God by playing with my children on the floor.

I love God by paying my taxes.

I love God by sharing Christ with my next door neighbor.

I love God by my attendance and involvement in a local church.

I love God by submitting to my employer.

I love God by voting in an election.

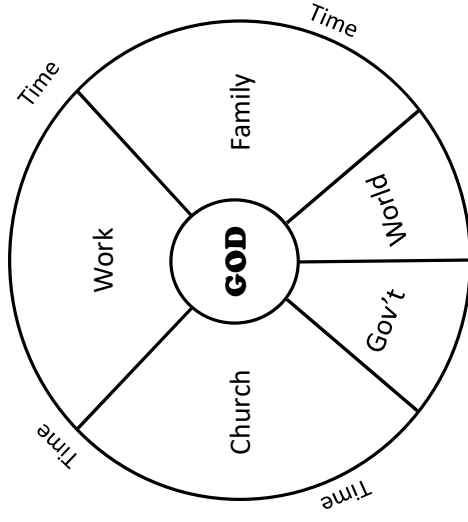
I love God by showing hospitality to other believers.

I love God by mowing the grass and painting the house.

But how do I get all of this done, I only have so much time?

• Time forces us to make choices, sometimes difficult choices, in order to meet pressing needs in any given situation.

• Think of it like preparing a meal – something might need to go on a back burner for a short time.



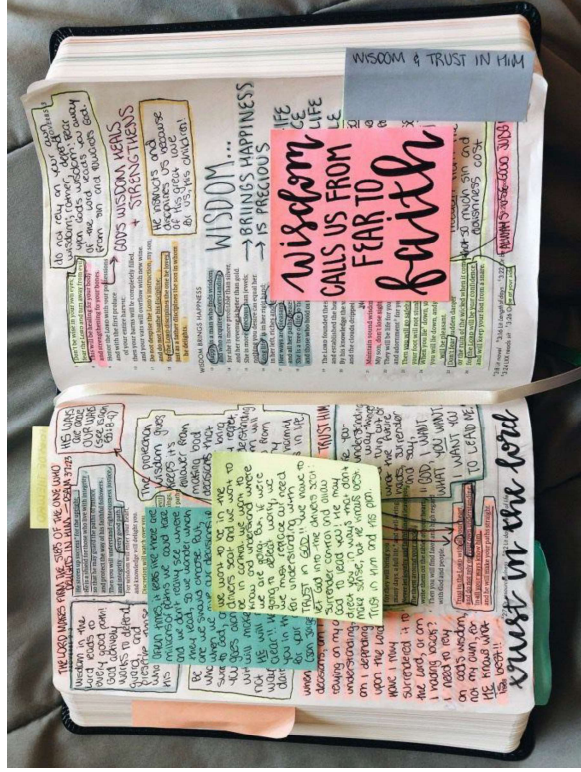
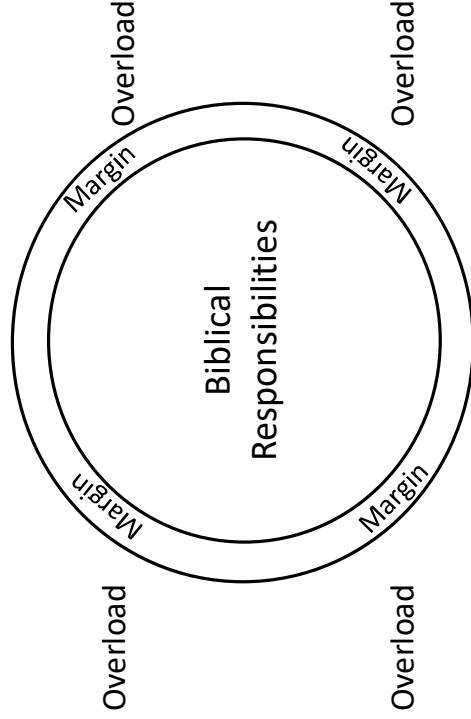
12. Build margin into your schedule.

- Let's define margin . . .

“Margin is the space between ourselves and our limits. It’s something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. As a society, we’ve forgotten what margin is. In the push for progress, margin has been devoured. So we feel distressed in ill-defined ways. We are besieged by anxiety, stress, and fatigue. Our relationships suffer. We have unexplained aches and pains. The flood of daily events seems beyond our control. We’ve overloaded.”

- Richard Swenson

- Restaurant buffets require you to say yes to some things and no to others and then to leave room for the pie.
- Margin is pie. It is that space that we leave room for.
- Margin is God’s way to help you deal with the unplanned, unexpected things that come into our lives.
- Books have margins. We need margins.



- Many people live not only in the margins, but even run off the page, resulting in burn-out.
- Always living on the edge is not God’s will for our lives.
- Too many people are running on empty.
- God says there are a lot of things that are non-essentials. Society says they are essential. Therefore we need discernment from the Word to know the difference.
- Just a word on the believer’s rewards. Eternal rewards are given at the Bema seat for being a good steward of all of our biblical responsibilities.

Luke 12:42-44

- 42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?
- 43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.
- 44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Phil 4:6

6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Peter 5:7

7 **casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you.

Heb 13:5

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money. **being content with what you have**; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Mark 6:30-32

30 The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

31 And He said to them, "**Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.**" (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)

32 They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves.

Ecdl 3:1

3 There is an **appointed time for everything**. And there is a time for every event under heaven.

Matt 6:34

34 "So **do not worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.

Ps 127:2

2 It is vain for you to rise up early,

To retire late,

To eat the bread of painful labors;

For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

Conclusion:

Guilt comes from a sequential list of priorities. Freedom comes from ranking all my biblical responsibilities as first in importance, keeping them in balance, eliminating the "busyness" that comes from non-essentials, and then living with margin to spare.