TOO BUSY FOR GOD

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:

TOO BUSY FOR GOD

Text: Jonah 1:1–3

Prayer

Let's pray. Our Father, our God, we exalt You. We bless Your name and glorify You. Lord Jesus, as we go into Your word, minister unto us in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Bible Text: Jonah 1:1–3

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.
But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Introduction

Even though God desires man to be close to Him, He will not force His will on anyone. This is why He set before us life and death—not just one option, but two. **Deuteronomy 30:19** I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death... This shows that God gives us the power of choice. He will not force us to choose life or death—He only invites and pleads with us. However, many times we desire to do the will of God, yet we find ourselves doing the opposite. There are moments we want to be spiritually fervent, but the activities of this world seem to choke that desire. This teaching is a reminder that we must not forget our first love, even in the midst of life's activities. Activities are not meant to take us away

from God's presence. God did not allow Adam's responsibilities in the garden to separate him from fellowship. Instead, He came in the cool of the day to commune with him. That is the model for us—we must remain connected to God regardless of how busy we are. As we continue, be attentive as the Holy Spirit ministers to us.

Study

Our topic, **"Too Busy for God,"** can be viewed in two ways:

1. Being too busy for the things of God
2. Being busy doing exploits for God

But our focus is on the first.

Many people are so overwhelmed with personal activities that they forget they are spiritual beings who must stay connected to their Source. The world presents many distractions that pull attention away from God. Consider Jonah. Instead of obeying God's instruction, he went in the opposite direction. **Jonah 1:1–3** Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying… Jonah's actions reflected a heart that was "too busy" to obey God. Yet, in God's mercy, his steps were redirected. This shows God's love—He sometimes intervenes so we do not perish in disobedience.

Jonah's story teaches us that God does not take lightly when we become too busy for Him. Are you like Jonah—given an instruction, yet too occupied to obey? For some, it is work. Once they get a job, their devoted life disappears. The busier they become, the farther they drift from God. For others, it is marriage. After getting married, they stop evangelism, prayer, and personal fellowship. But if God gave you a spouse, should that relationship replace Him? For some, it is wealth. **Mark 10:17–22** And when he was gone forth into the way, there came

one running... AND WENT AWAY GRIEVED: FOR HE HAD GREAT POSSESSIONS. The rich ruler's wealth became a barrier between him and Christ. In the same way, being too busy for God creates a separation from Him. For some, it is children. They give all their attention to their children but neglect their relationship with God. For many, it is gadgets and social media. People can spend hours online but struggle to spend even one hour with God. For others, it is school. Some believe spiritual activities hinder academic success, which is not true. And surprisingly, for some—it is church activities.

They become so busy working for God that they forget to walk with Him. They engage in group prayers and teaching but neglect personal devotion. They forget that true strength comes from the secret place. There are consequences when a person becomes too busy for God. When God no longer has your time, the enemy begins to take it—and he uses it to plan your downfall.

Dangers of Being Too Busy for God

1. Being open to attacks:
The moment you begin to become too busy for God, you begin to drift out from the presence of God. And what this implies is that you may find yourself outside the secret place, which means you are outside the shadow of the Almighty. This is why the Bible says: **Psalms 91:1** He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

As long as you dwell in the secret place of the Most High, you abide under the shadow of the Almighty. If you do not dwell in the secret place due to being busy with other things and not focusing on God, you will not abide under His shadow. This opens you to the attack of the devil because there is no shield to protect you.

2. Lack of personal relationship with God:
When you do not have time for God, you will definitely be far from Him, because it takes you to draw closer to Him for Him to draw closer to you. **James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

If you don't draw near to God, He won't draw near to you. If you are too busy for Him, He will also leave you to your choices, because He does not force people. Being too busy for God will weaken your personal relationship with Him and make you far from Him.

3. Lack of direction:
When you become too busy for God, you begin to rely on your own strength and lose direction. One of the advantages of drawing closer to God is divine direction. Therefore, when we are far from Him, we lack direction and begin to move by head knowledge. **Psalms 37:23** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. So, if you don't want to be without direction, ensure you are not too busy for God.

4. Spiritual death:
Some have become spiritually dead because they received a promotion at work. Being too busy for God can make a person spiritually dead while still being active in the flesh.

5. Weakness of the spirit, soul, and body:
It can also make your entire being weak. Some people find it difficult to pray, study, and engage in spiritual activities because of the weakness caused by being too busy for God. Therefore, to avoid this, you must avoid being too busy for God.

Having seen the dangers, let us now look at how to create time for God and remain close to Him.

How to Avoid Being Too Busy for God

1. Make serving God your utmost priority:
This should be your first priority, not work. Adam knew God before he was given responsibility. Your personal relationship with God must come first. **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. Create a consistent daily time for Him:
Ensure God has a place in your 24-hour day. Choose a specific time for devotion and prayer, and remain consistent.

3. Plan your day properly:
Lack of planning can lead to wasted time. Create a daily schedule or to-do list and ensure God is included.

4. Surround yourself with spiritual people:
Stay around people who can notice when your spiritual fire is weakening and help bring you back on track.

5. Review your day regularly:
Check how you spend your time daily. This will help you know whether you made time for God or were too busy for Him.

6. Be discerning about time-consuming opportunities:
Not all breakthroughs are from God. Some are distractions meant to shift your focus away from Him. Be sensitive and discerning.

7. Watch and pray always:
Both are important so that you do not fall into temptation. Do not only watch—pray also. Do not only pray—watch also.

8. Ask God for help:
Pray that God should deliver you from anything taking His place in your life. Ask for His help, and He will help you.

I pray that whoever is far from God will receive the strength to draw near to Him now, in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

We have come to the end of the teaching. Have a blessed day, brethren.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

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