

CREATING GOD SPACE

Study Guide

By: Ray Handisides

INTRODUCTION

Looking back on the past few days I wonder how I even had time to breathe. Each day was running from one meeting to another, driving frantically from one place to another trying not to be late, going out to lunch and dinner with people I needed to see, rushing to the church for yet another meeting and finally at the end of each day collapsing into bed. The next day would start at daybreak with a rushed breakfast as I ran out the door and to start the craziness all over again. Thank goodness for my cell phone, Blackberry and laptop with WiFi. Without these marvels of modern technology I would not be able to keep up with my e-mail, calls and other commitments. I think the weekends will give some rest but Saturday is a day full of running the children from one sporting event to another and the evening has that social event at church we must go to. Sunday becomes just as crazy, getting up early to get everybody fed and ready to go to Sunday School followed by church. Sunday lunch does give us a minute to relax at a restaurant, but trying to control the children brings on another kind of stress. At least Sunday afternoon I am able to sit and watch football, but then I feel guilty about not doing the yard work that is waiting.

Does this sound like your week? In the 21st century we are all really busy and life is very complicated. We have come to rely on “time-saving” devices. Often these devices, such as a Blackberry, have only made our life more complicated. Some of these devices are like the old ball-and-chain; we are tethered to our office and are only a heartbeat away. When having a quiet meal with your spouse have you ever been guilty of answering your cell phone and destroying that quiet moment alone? I plead guilty and I’m sure most of you can claim the same. Are you also guilty of being so busy with work and church that you forget to have those quiet moments alone with your spouse? This is a common situation in today’s society.

If we are so busy that we hardly have time for our families then it only goes to reason that we are neglecting the time we spend with God. God is never too busy for us but we get too busy for God. Just because we go to church on Sundays, are a member of the session, and 3 committees does not mean we are spending time with God. The time I am talking about is the important things God wants us to do and the quiet times we need to set aside when we are alone with God. That is what this week’s study is about. Creating a space in our lives for God; what I like to call God Space. We get so busy that life passes us by and we miss those opportunities God creates for us to truly serve Him and be with Him in our lives.

CONFRONTING SCRIPTURE

In the following passages look for how God expects us to spend our time and create that God Space.

ISAIAH 30:1

- What does this verse tell you about plans you make without including God?
- Is it important to create space for God in your life? If so why? If not why not?

MARK 1:35-38

- What does this passage imply about how much importance Jesus places on making time to spend with God?
- Once Jesus has spent his time with God what does he do next?

LUKE 9:51; LUKE 13:22; LUKE 17:11; LUKE 18:31; LUKE 19:28

- In all these verses we see Jesus is very resolute and determined about making his way to Jerusalem. Why was he so determined in this pursuit during his life?
- Is there something in your life that you should have the same determination about completing?

EPHESIANS 5:15-17

- What does this verse have to say about how we use our time?
- When you look at your crowded schedule do you see places you have dedicated to spend time with God or do God's work?

CONFRONTING THE ISSUES

As we look at this subject we need to take stock of our lives and determine how busy we are doing important things and how much our lives are cluttered with just doing "stuff." In doing this it will help us also realize what in our lives we are doing for ourselves, what we are doing for others, and what we are truly doing for God. Consider the following questions:

- How many gadgets do you have? Do these things help you "get it done"?
- What is the pace of your life? Are you happy with this?
- Do you have times when you feel life is passing you by?
- Does your life have a purpose? Do you feel you are really going somewhere?
- Do others dictate your life and set your expectations and determine what you do?
- If you are really busy leading your life are others around you suffering because of this?
- In your planning for your day do you build in time to be alone with God?
- Do you ever consider things God wants you to do?
- Is your Church life so full with being involved in Church that you do not have time to do things outside the Church where God may be calling you?
- What are some things in your life you could give up to spend more time doing what God is calling you to do?

Carefully and prayerfully consider these questions and the implications for your lives.

CONCLUSIONS

Our lives are cluttered with doing things. We are busy running from place to place, job to job. Imagine if Moses had been too busy running after the sheep he was looking after to see the burning bush. Imagine if David had been too busy with his daily chores to give up the opportunity to go and fight Goliath. Imagine if Jesus had been too busy preaching and helping people in Galilee to go to Jerusalem. We could go on with many examples from scripture where people were too busy to do the work God had for them. We need to take stock of our lives and consider what God really wants us to do. Forget climbing the corporate ladder, forget all those meetings we feel we must attend and look for what God wants of us. There could be a burning bush right in front of you that you are missing. In your life create God Space. Spend time alone with God and see what God wants you to be doing. This may mean letting go of some things you think are important but in God's great plan for your life are insignificant.

Make God Space and live your life to the fullest.