

SOUTH
SHORE
community church

GROWTH

Too busy for God?



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- John & Bill (important appointment)
- One day Jesus was over an important Pharisee's house for dinner & people around the table were jockeying for the most important seats. Jesus was encouraging them to not look for the most important seat, or to associate with the most important people, but to have parties & invite the poor. Luke 14:14f

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Luke 14:14f

- Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’ Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.”’

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Luke 14:14f

- But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, “I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.” Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.” Still another said, “I just got married, so I can’t come.” The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant,

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Luke 14:14f

- “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.” “Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.” Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”

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- Here is Jesus' point: You have been handed a 'can't miss' opportunity – you have to make room for God in your life. Don't be too busy for God.
- The first level of this 'can't miss' invitation is an invitation to salvation. God is inviting everyone into a relationship with Him through faith in Christ. All are invited, though not all will come. (context – pride excludes) (say yes)

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- The second level to this ‘can’t miss’ invitation is an invitation to intimacy with the Father. And many people have accepted the invitation to salvation, but have missed out on the invitation to intimacy. Notice what caused the people to miss out on this most important invitation. It wasn’t an emergency. No life or death situations. No vitally important conflicts. (a field, some oxen, & a date night)

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- People often miss out on intimacy with God simply because they are too busy with ordinary things. *Some people are so busy with the ordinary tasks of life that they miss out on the extraordinary invitation to intimacy with the Master.*
- Imagine if Jesus told this parable today (TV, FB, sports, texting)

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- What is keeping you from your next level intimacy with God? None of these things are bad in & of themselves, but neither was a field, or oxen or married life. But these were the things that were keeping the people from the invitation of a lifetime. *Beware of the distractions that rob you of your intimacy with God, and rob you of your affections for God.* They are sapping you of your spiritual vitality.

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- We can't afford to be too busy for God. Will you give God priority in your life? There are many pathways to connect with God (Sacred Pathways; Streams of Living Water). But, all of the pathways involve time. Let's look at a few pathways:
- First, we can connect with God by feeding our soul with Scripture. (Read; Study; meditate) (Isaiah 30:15)

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- Second, we can connect with God through the pathway of prayer. (intercession; God initiated conversations)
- Third, we can connect with God through the pathway of praise and thanksgiving. (Ps 100)
- Fourth, we can connect with God through the pathway of nature. (Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”)

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- Fifth, we can connect with God through the pathway of silence & solitude. (Ps 46:10)
(longing; blanket of his presence)
- Will you give God time?