

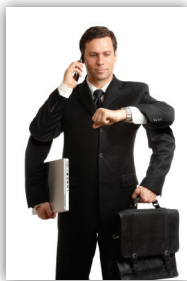
Too Busy to Take a Break?

Today's Reading

Luke 5:1-39

I've observed a few entrepreneurs over the years. There is often a price tag attached to their ventures. Working initially with a skeleton crew of people who understand and share the vision, the entrepreneur is consumed by the dream around the clock.

Even though not everyone is an entrepreneur, most people I know are still that way...consumed by something. If it isn't work, it is family demands, a hobby, a love



for entertainment, or even a ministry. As a result, we may find it difficult to prioritize or justify "down time" and especially "hang time with God."

Just imagine you were Jesus! You know your time on earth is brief. You realize that you are capable of things and responsible for things that none other can do. There is a leadership team to pull together (vv. 1-11; 27-31). There are people in need of healing (vv. 12-26). There is teaching to be done (vv. 17; 33-29). Seemingly, there aren't enough hours in a day to do what needs to be done.

But, while crowds gathered to listen and be healed, we read that Jesus "withdrew to lonely places to pray" (v. 16b). He understood something that all of His followers must grasp: *power and clarity for life flow out of time spent hanging with the Father.* Notice what that looked like for Jesus:

1. It was frequent! Verse 16 points out that Jesus did this often. It wasn't just a one-time thing that he put on his calendar. Is time spent with God part of your regular practice?
2. It was individual! Though the Bible points to the value of the church gathering, Jesus "withdrew to lonely places." Spending time with God's people on Sunday is vital, but are you spending individual time with Him?
3. It included prayer! Prayer is you talking to God. Beyond your grocery list of needs, are you talking to Him about His priorities and His will for you as indicated in His word?

If life seems "too busy" that is all the more reason to take a break and spend time with God!