

“I Was Just Too Busy”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. 1Kings 20:13-42

1. Ben-hadad, king of Syria, was determined to take Israel; he tried to bankrupt Israel by demanding exorbitant tribute - 1Kings 20:2-7
2. He threaten to grind the capital of Israel into dust but was rebuffed - 1Kings 20:8-11
3. He tried to attack, but a counter-attack was launched while Ben-hadad and his kings were at a drunken pre-war party. Ben-hadad was completely routed and barely escaped - 1Kings 20:12-21.
4. God warned Ahab that he would try again the next spring.
5. Meanwhile, Ben-hadad was convinced that he only lost because of the mountain location of the battle, so he decided to attack next on a plain.
6. Ahab again is guided by God to a decisive victory. Ben-hadad decided that it would be best to plead for mercy and offered terms of peace, and Ahab foolishly let him go - 1Kings 20:22-34
7. God sent a prophet to Ahab with an illustration; he disguises himself as a wounded soldier and tells a story about being too busy to guard a prisoner who subsequently escaped - 1Kings 20:35-40
8. Ahab recognized his own neglect in carrying out his duty. He used the excuse that he was busy here and there and neglected to watch, and it was not accepted.
9. The prophet charged Ahab with the crime - 1Kings 20:41-43
10. “I was too busy running a war to ask God what to do with the man the Divine helped me capture.”

I. WE OFTEN OFFER THE SAME EXCUSE

A. “I was busy here and there, and I just couldn’t seem to find the time to talk to my neighbor about his soul.”

1. Do we appreciate the debt we owe the Lord for our salvation?
 - a. We were under the penalty of death - Rom. 6:23
 - b. Yet Jesus died on our behalf - Rom. 5:8
 - c. Paul understood - Rom. 1:14-16
 - d. Some professed Christians act as if God owes them a reward
2. There are people who need to hear the gospel. Don’t waste the opportunities.

B. “I was busy here and there, and I just couldn’t seem to find the time to raise my children in the Lord”

1. It is the parents’ responsibility - Eph. 6:4
2. We get what we sow, and that includes in our children - Gal. 6:7
3. Children see that worship and Bible study services are of secondary importance to their parents, and they learn the habit of negligent service
 - a. Prov. 22:6 - It works with negligent parents, too

4. The primary defense our children have against the moral decay of the world around them is a godly family life. Yet, we get too busy and leave things to others to manage, and then we are surprised that while we busy here and there, we lost our children somewhere along the way.
- C. "I was busy here and there, and I just couldn't seem to find the time to feed my own soul"
1. Even when the Lord was in this world, some were just too busy to listen to Him - Luke 9:59-62
 2. Salvation can be lost from neglect - Heb. 2:3
 3. Israel lost theirs over time, and sin crept into their lives - Heb. 3:12-14
 4. We get caught up in day to day matters and we forget that salvation requires diligent watching and focused work - Heb. 4:1, 11, 6:9-12
 5. We need endurance - Heb. 10:35-39, 12:1-4

II. "I WAS JUST TOO BUSY HERE AND THERE"

- A. And a neighbor is lost.
1. Or we can stop being busy with what we think is important and start fulfilling our purpose for being alive - 2Cor. 4:10-11
- B. And a child is lost
1. It is one thing to lose a child because of sickness or an accident, but to lose a child from neglect is on our heads.
 2. Or we can follow Jesus example and set aside what we think is important to teach and care for a child - Mark 10:13-16
- C. And we are lost
1. You have nothing in this world more important to do than to save your own eternal soul - Matt. 16:24-26