

Too Busy For God!

Brother John had made a dozen calls, in a wide territory, trying to sell insurance. The day was hot; traffic was heavy; and he barely made it home in time to take a quick shower, grab a bite to eat, and get to the meeting. He had hoped to have time to check his boat, as he planned to leave the next morning for a vacation; and he was somewhat irked at having to lose that two hours of cool evening time. But he taught the adult men's class, and he just had to make one service of the meeting before leaving town.

Sister Jane works downtown and had to ask the boss to let her off early so she could get her hair fixed. She barely got home in time to heat a few TV dinners for the children. She dressed while they were eating. She only saw them briefly -- to argue with the boy about the credit card he wanted to use for his "date" that night, and to "have it out" with the girl about the weird costume she wanted to wear. By now, Jane had a headache and only went to the meeting because John insisted he should not go alone.

The girl kept her parents waiting in the car while she changed outfits five or six times, trying to make up her mind. They had to race to the church building, and the girl pouted all the way about her brother getting the car and not having to go to church, etc., etc.

They barely made it in time, but the song leader was late in starting. He had tarried in the parking lot trying to make a car deal with another member and had to make his song selections under last-minute pressure. Oh well, he could think the car deal over more fully after the preaching started.

So, they sang a few songs and called on someone for prayer; then the local preacher welcomed a few visitors, made the usual apologies for the small percentage of members present, and the visiting evangelist took the floor and looked at his targets -- 150 tired, business-harried people, preoccupied with scores of material problems. He must capture their attention, focus it upon unfamiliar subjects, and lead them to reason and draw conclusions that, put into practice, would change their whole lives.

These are not bad people -- they do show some interest by their presence, and a few will listen, meditate, study -- and God will dwell in them. But most of us are just too busy for God!

Robert F. Turner