

A TELL-TALE SIGN OF BEING BUSY

I stopped into a jewellery store on Friday morning around 11:30 a.m. to get a new band for my watch. The band had broken on Wednesday, and it was the first time I had the opportunity to be up to that end of town. I already had a very busy morning by the time I got there. I went to school with the owner of this jewellery store, so we always take a few moments to chat whenever I go in. He was telling me his morning had been so busy that he had only time for one coffee when usually he has had 3-4 by that point. I am an avid coffee drinker too. When he said that, it made me pause and think how many coffees I had time for so far that morning. I realized I had only had 1&1/2 cups by that time of the day, when most days I have already had 3-4 cups just like him. Both of us had busy mornings on Friday, and this truth was reflected by how few coffees we had been able to drink up until that point.

This incident reminded me how we all have signs that reflect how busy things are for us. Maybe the indicator is coffee like it is for the jeweller and me. For others, these indicators might be the number of messages we have not returned, or piles of things left by the door that we have not had time to put away, or laundry that we have not gotten at, or ironing that has piled up. These may be indicators to us revealing we are going through a busy stretch.

This week leading into Christmas adds a whole different layer of busyness to our lives. There are last minute gifts we still need to get. We may still try to find time to send out a few more Christmas cards. We have to get to the grocery store to pick up everything we need to make Christmas dinner. Let's not forget about trying to find time to wrap gifts. It is such a busy week leading up to Christmas. Imagine if we were ministers during this week. I do not have to imagine when it comes to that. Somehow, we find the time to get these things done before the big day because we know it is important to us and to others that we do.

I pray that in all the busyness of this week that we will find time to be with God just like the shepherds did on the night Christ was born. On that night the shepherds were in the field tending to their flocks when suddenly an angel appeared before them and said:

I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior-yes, the Messiah, the Lord-has been born today in Bethlehem, the city

of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger (Luke 2:10-12).

After the shepherds heard these words from the angel, they decided to take a break from what they were doing to spend time with the baby Jesus. They realized how blessed they were to be in the presence of the Christ child and went back to their flocks glorifying and praising God for all that they had experienced.

Just like the shepherds, may we find time in the midst of this busy week to spend time with Jesus in worship. By so doing, it will allow us to be uplifted with joy and peace and to appreciate the true gift of this time of year. I hope we will continue setting time aside to be with Jesus in 2023 as well. Many of us will return to our busy lifestyles after the Christmas break. We may think we are too busy at this moment in time to go to church or find time to pray. If we think our lives are busy, we need to remember Jesus had a far busier life than any of us, but He still found time each Sabbath to worship and each day to pray.

I mentioned earlier how the reason we get everything done before Christmas despite all the busyness is because of how important it is to us and others. If worship and spending time with God in prayer is truly important to us, then we need to make the effort to carve out time each Sunday and each day to do so. In these moments we will be uplifted and encouraged by being with God just like the shepherds felt the night Jesus was born.

Friday morning was busy for both me and my former classmate who owns a local jewellery store. Our busy mornings were reflected by how few coffees we had been able to drink. As I write this on a Monday morning, I can tell you it has been another busy morning for me. By 11:30 a.m. I had only time to drink 2 coffees. This tally indicates Monday morning has been less busy for me than Friday but still busier than days when I am at 3-4 coffees by this time.

I wish each and everyone a safe, blessed, and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Pastor Dean