

The Pacing of Jesus

December 28, 2014—Pastor Dave Buehring

Introduction

- CrazyBusy
 - We do not know how to not be busy
- Statistics (from among US citizens):
 - People now sleep 2 1/2 fewer hours each night compared to people from one hundred years ago.
 - The average work week is longer now than it was in the 1960s.
 - The average office worker has 36 hours of work piled up on his or her desk. It takes three hours a week just to sort through it and find what we need.
 - We spend eight months of our lives opening junk mail, two years of our lives playing phone tag with people who are too busy to answer, and five years waiting for people who are trying to do too much and are late for meetings.
 - We're a piled-on, stretched-to-the limit society; chronically rushed, chronically late, and chronically exhausted.
- Margin
 - We are overloaded with activities, change, choices, commitments, competition, debt, decisions, education, expectations (entitlements), fatigue, hurry, information, media, ministry, noise, people, pollution, possessions, problems, technology, traffic, waste and work.
 - Margin is the space between our load and our limits. It is the amount allowed beyond that which is needed. It is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. Margin is the gap between rest and exhaustion, the space between breathing freely and suffocating.¹
 - The conditions of modern day living devour margin. If you're homeless we direct you to a shelter. If you're penniless we offer you food stamps. If you're breathless we connect you to oxygen. But if you're marginless we give you one more thing to do. Marginless is being thirty minutes late to the doctor's office because you were twenty minutes late getting out of the hairdresser because you were ten minutes late dropping the children off at school because the car ran out of gas two blocks from a gas station and you forgot your purse. That's marginless.²
 - If we were equipped with a flashing light to indicate "100 percent full," we could better gauge our capacities. But we don't have such an indicator light, and we don't know when we have overextended until we feel the pain. As a result, many people commit to a 120 percent life and wonder why the burden feels so heavy. It is rare to see a life prescheduled to only 80 percent, leaving a margin for responding to the unexpected that God sends our way.³

¹ Richard Swenson, *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives*, Carol Stream IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2014. e-Book edition

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Jesus

- He was never in a hurry, and never anxious
- Yet, He was always right on time and always incredibly fruitful

Five Observations from the Life of Jesus

John 13:1–5

Jesus was secure in who He was, where He came from and where He was going—so He could serve others!

- We often serve God for a variety of reasons: trying to gain His favor, to please people, because it makes us “feel fulfilled,” or because we want to “make an impact for God.”
- Note Jesus’ pace—there is no sense of an internal proving or push, but rather a sense of peace.

John 5:19–20

Jesus did only what He saw His Father doing

John 11:1–44

Jesus was motivated by obedience, not driven by needs

- Jesus is motivated by obedience to His Father. Does this mean He doesn’t care about needs —of course He does! Obedience glorifies God!
- If we each listen as we pray and obey, the Great Orchestrator is able to position each one of us in such a way that all needs can be met.
- Consider: if it is not obedience, it may be well intentioned, but the Scriptures would call it a “work of the flesh.”
- Our “quiet times” with God help us sort out what needs He’s calling us to meet in the midst of the endless “loud noise” that surrounds us each day.

Mark 6:30–32

Jesus rested with His friends for awhile

- Jesus rested. He spent time with friends. It was part of His pacing!
- Sometimes we think that Jesus simply needed a “supporting cast” so he chose some “disciples” to hang with Him.
 - We need to consider how these men became deeply connected on a relational level over three years of spending almost every day together.
- Jesus seems to gain strength from being with his friends. He stopped by Bethany on the way to Jerusalem where He’d be crucified so he could be with Lazarus, Mary and Martha. (John.12:1-3)

Matthew 28:18–20

Jesus knew that His vision could only be fulfilled by multiplying His life within others

- While Jesus was going from village-to-village, loving, healing, teaching and meeting the needs of people, He always had a group of people with Him that He was investing His ways deeply into.
- He understood that a priority of His pacing was that the generational seed of what was invested in Him be deliberately passed on to others.
- Jesus built in to the “flow of His life” pouring what He had in others.

- Often, multiplying the life of Jesus in others is one of the first things “to go” when busyness creeps in, or we become caught up in “doing our thing”.
 - This multiplying is a valuable piece to Jesus and where He spent the majority of His time here on the planet!
 - Without multiplying, He knew His Kingdom would have a difficult time maturing and advancing.
 - He made people, their spiritual development and finding their place on His team a priority.
 - He didn’t only make disciples, but disciple-makers who would reproduce His character, ways and mission in others!

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your pace. How like Jesus (these five observations) is your current pace?
2. Is your pace dictated more by a push or a peace?
3. Are you taking time to listen for and watch to see what the Father is doing? How could you better set priorities to make this more of a certainty?
4. What are you doing that is God initiated and what are you spending time sustaining that needs to be let go?
5. Where in your life is the most fruitfulness? What is your passion?
6. What was the last thing you KNOW Jesus asked you to do? Describe how it felt to be doing something completely in His will?
7. Do you have trusted, relaxed and restorative friends in your life whom will speak the truth in love to you?
8. In whom are you deliberately investing the things of God?
9. Where can you cultivate these five observations of Jesus’ pacing in your life?
10. What is the first step in obedience to Jesus that you can begin today to adjust your pace and to be more like His?