



“I Was Just Too Busy”

1Kings 20:13-42

*W.D. Dool*

# “I Was Just Too Busy”

- 1Kings 20:2-6 - “Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, Thus says Ben-Hadad: 3 Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine. 4 And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have are yours. 5 Then the messengers came back and said, Thus speaks Ben-Hadad, saying, Indeed I have sent to you, saying, You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children; 6 but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. And it shall be, that whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put it in their hands and take it.”

# “I Was Just Too Busy”

- 1Kings 20:7-11 - “So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Notice, please, and see how this man seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him. 8 And all the elders and all the people said to him, Do not listen or consent. 9 Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, Tell my lord the king, All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do. And the messengers departed and brought back word to him. 10 Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me. 11 So the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off.”

# “I Was Just Too Busy”

- 1Kings 20:12-15 - “And it happened when Ben-Hadad heard this message, as he and the kings were drinking at the command post, that he said to his servants, Get ready. And they got ready to attack the city. 13 Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus says the LORD: Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD. 14 So Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus says the LORD: By the young leaders of the provinces. Then he said, Who will set the battle in order? And he answered, You. 15 Then he mustered the young leaders of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel-seven thousand.”

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- 1Kings 20:16-21 - “So they went out at noon. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post. 17 The young leaders of the provinces went out first. And Ben-Hadad sent out a patrol, and they told him, saying, Men are coming out of Samaria! 18 So he said, If they have come out for peace, take them alive; and if they have come out for war, take them alive. 19 Then these young leaders of the provinces went out of the city with the army which followed them. 20 And each one killed his man; so the Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry. 21 Then the king of Israel went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.”

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- 1Kings 20:22-26 - “And the prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, Go, strengthen yourself; take note, and see what you should do, for in the spring of the year the king of Syria will come up against you. 23 Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they. 24 So do this thing: Dismiss the kings, each from his position, and put captains in their places; 25 and you shall muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain; surely we will be stronger than they. And he listened to their voice and did so. 26 So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben-Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.”

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- 1Kings 20:27-30 - “And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them. Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside. 28 Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, Thus says the LORD: Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys, therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD. 29 And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. So it was that on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one hundred thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians in one day. 30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men who were left. And Ben-Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber.”

# “I Was Just Too Busy”

- 1Kings 20:31-34 - “Then his servants said to him, Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life. 32 So they wore sackcloth around their waists and put ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, Your servant Ben-Hadad says, Please let me live. And he said, Is he still alive? He is my brother. 33 Now the men were watching closely to see whether any sign of mercy would come from him; and they quickly grasped at this word and said, Your brother Ben-Hadad. So he said, Go, bring him. Then Ben-Hadad came out to him; and he had him come up into the chariot. 34 So Ben-Hadad said to him, The cities which my father took from your father I will restore; and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria. Then Ahab said, I will send you away with this treaty. So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.”

# “I Was Just Too Busy”

- 1Kings 20:35-40 - “Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, Strike me, please. And the man refused to strike him. 36 Then he said to him, Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you. And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him. 37 And he found another man, and said, Strike me, please. So the man struck him, inflicting a wound. 38 Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. 39 Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver. 40 While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone. Then the king of Israel said to him, So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it.”

*W.D.*

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- 1Kings 20:41-43 - “And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. 42 Then he said to him, Thus says the LORD: Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people. 43 So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- “I was busy here and there, and I just couldn’t seem to find the time to talk to my neighbor about his soul.”
- Do we appreciate the debt we owe the Lord for our salvation?
- We were under the penalty of death
  - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Yet Jesus died on our behalf
  - Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- Paul understood
  - Rom. 1:14-16 - “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- “I was busy here and there, and I just couldn’t seem to find the time to raise my children in the Lord”
- It is the parents’ responsibility
  - Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
- We get what we sow, and that includes in our children
  - Gal. 6:7 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- Children see that worship and Bible study services are of secondary importance to their parents, and they learn the habit of negligent service
- Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."
- It works with negligent parents, too

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- “I was busy here and there, and I just couldn’t seem to find the time to feed my own soul”
- Even when the Lord was in this world, some were just too busy to listen to Him
  - Luke 9:59-62 - “Then He said to another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. 60 Jesus said to him, Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God. 61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house. 62 But Jesus said to him, No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- Salvation can be lost from neglect
  - Heb. 2:3 - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?”
- Israel lost theirs over time, and sin crept into their lives
  - Heb. 3:12-14 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- We get caught up in day to day matters and we forget that salvation requires diligent watching and focused work
  - Heb. 4:1, 11 - “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it... 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- Heb. 6:9-12 - “But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

*W.D.*

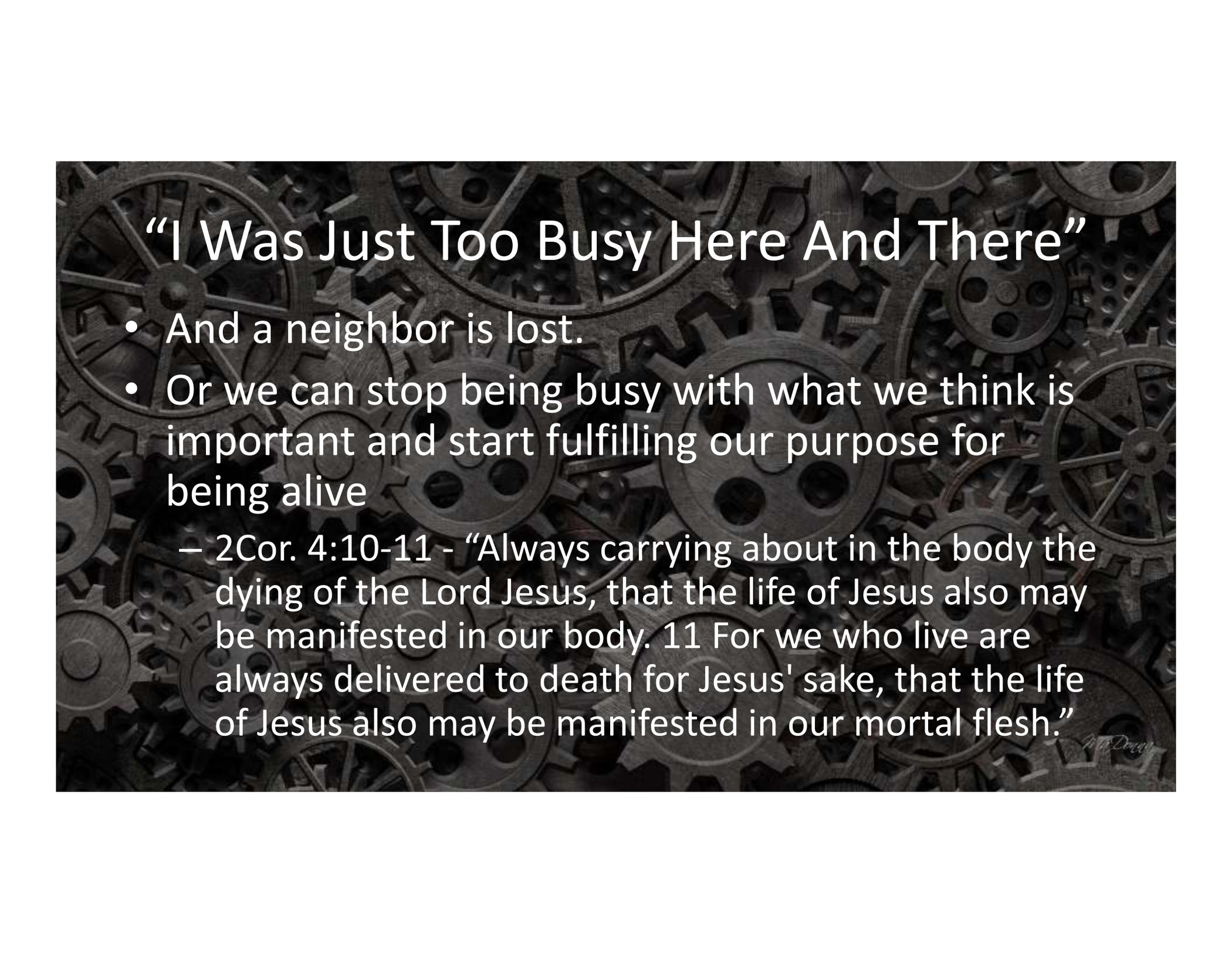
# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- We need endurance
  - Heb. 10:35-39 - “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

# We Often Offer The Same Excuse

- Heb. 12:1-4 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”

*W.D.*



## “I Was Just Too Busy Here And There”

- And a neighbor is lost.
- Or we can stop being busy with what we think is important and start fulfilling our purpose for being alive
  - 2Cor. 4:10-11 - “Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

# “I Was Just Too Busy Here And There”

- And a child is lost.
- 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 - “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it. 16 And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.”

The background of the slide is a dense, monochromatic pattern of interlocking gears of various sizes, creating a complex, mechanical texture. The gears are rendered in shades of dark gray and black, with highlights that give them a three-dimensional appearance. The overall effect is one of intricate complexity and interconnectedness.

# “I Was Just Too Busy Here And There”

- And we are lost.
- You have nothing in this world more important to do than to save your own eternal soul.
  - Matt. 16:24-26 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”