

It's Not My Job!

Presented by Mary Lowman

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Day One

I saw something in Scripture that just made my day. Why? Because it said to me it's okay to say, "That's not my job." If you constantly struggle with priorities and feel as though you are being pulled apart by demands and responsibilities, this could be great news for you, too.

One of the things I taught in my business seminars is you should never say, "It's not my job." But would you believe Jesus said that once? It's in Luke 12:13 and 14. In this passage, a man asked Jesus to be a judge, and Jesus said, *Who appointed me an arbiter between you and your brother?* In essence, he said, "That's not my job."

I can imagine this man figured Jesus was the right person to settle this argument between him and his brother. As they say, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." But Jesus told him he was not called, nor did he intend to become an earthly judge in human affairs. I'm sure he was not unkind about it, but he certainly was direct.

In Mark 1:35-38 we see another example of a time when Jesus disappointed people. The whole town had gathered to hear him and be healed, and his disciples were most anxious for him to come and please this crowd. But Jesus decided he needed to go elsewhere, undoubtedly disappointing the crowd. You see, Jesus spent much time in prayer with his Father, and he knew his priorities very well.

Jesus did not avoid these people because he was tired or because he did not care. No, he often gave of himself tirelessly, going without food and rest in order to minister to the many who came to him for help. He was frequently exhausted, but he was never feverish, never frazzled, never burned-out.

Why? Because he knew what he was called to do, he knew what God's priorities were for him, and that's what he did, leaving other things undone. Sometimes people thought he should do other things, but he knew what was important and what wasn't.

Burnout doesn't come from doing God's will; burnout is a result of not appropriately separating the urgent from the important, and this is one lesson I have to learn and re-learn.

Day Two

Jesus could say at the end of his short earthly life, "I have finished the work which you gave me to do." But I wonder how many of us will be able to say that. Are you doing what God has given you to do, or are you distracted and burned-out by trying to do urgent things that are not truly important?

Though Jesus did much during his short earthly life, he didn't do everything everybody wanted him to do. He didn't heal all the sick, he didn't reach everyone. When so much was left undone, how could Jesus say he had finished his work? In his pamphlet, *The Tyranny of the Urgent*, Charles Hummel puts it so well, "Here is the secret of Jesus' life and work for God: He prayerfully waited for his Father's

instructions and for the strength to follow them. Jesus...discerned the Father's will day by day in a life of prayer. By this means he warded off the urgent and accomplished the important."¹

If you want to be free from burnout, free from being victimized by the loud voices of urgency that often surround you, you must remember what Jesus told us: *If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free* (John 8:31-32). A life of prayer and a life of daily abiding in the Word of God is our key. How easy it is to let these truly important things be shoved aside by all those urgent voices.

Urgent things usually have deadlines and time frames, while important things may not. Therefore, it's quite easy to do the urgent things, but leave the important things undone.

Could it be you need to find balance in your life by making the main thing the main thing and not allowing those urgent voices to dictate your schedule? And at the top of your important list should be the commitment to spend substantial time in your pursuit of knowing the living God.

Day Three

It's highly likely the burnout you and I experience, the frazzled nerves and frayed edges, are a result of taking on jobs God never intended for us, trying to be superwomen or supermen, thinking we can be all things to all people, never saying, "It's not my job." And amid all those urgent voices, you and I have shortchanged what is important: the Word of God and prayer.

You cannot allow others—no matter how well intentioned—to cause you to try to be or do what you're not supposed to be or do. You may disappoint them, but if you're going to be effective for God, you have to avoid the tendency to try to be all things to all people.

It doesn't mean a life of ease with no pressures. I'm sure the hours will sometimes still be long, and exhaustion will still be a part of your life. But the more you submerge yourself into God's Word, the less frantic you'll be, the more you'll know what God wants you to do and what he doesn't, the more peaceful and calm you can be as you face your heavy schedule.

In his booklet, *The Tyranny of the Urgent*, Charles Hummel has a suggestion, which I think is excellent. He suggests in addition to that daily time of getting to know God, you set aside one hour a week for spiritual inventory, to evaluate what's happened over the past week and plan for the week ahead. To make certain your to-do list has the important things at the top.²

To help you and me in that process, I've written a simple guideline to use for that spiritual inventory. If you are serious about getting your priorities in line, about spending time getting to know God, about weeding out the unimportant things on your list of priorities and putting God's Word and prayer at the top of your list, then you may find this guide for a weekly spiritual inventory helpful.

You'll find [it here](#).

I hope many of you will consider using this each week. I believe it will be a great help in getting you out of crisis mode and into a more God-centered lifestyle.

Day Four

Everybody needs encouragement and help at times, don't they? As I read 2 Corinthians 7, I realized even the great Apostle Paul had his bad times when he needed other people.

¹ Hummel, C. E. (1967). *The Tyranny of the Urgent*. Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

² Hummel, C. E. (1967). *The Tyranny of the Urgent*. Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within (2 Corinthians 7:5).

Doesn't that describe the way you feel at times? Conflicts without fears within? But this is the spiritual giant, Paul, and it surprises us to realize he would have these feelings. We just need to remember that positions of prominence or responsibility do not isolate anyone from being human. Paul was tired and fearful. He needed help.

Where did his help come from? He goes on to say,

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6).

He needed a friend at his side to comfort him, and so Titus came along. We could say to Paul, "But wasn't it enough to have the Lord there?" And Paul would respond, "The Lord was there in the person of Titus. He comforted me by sending Titus."

Yes indeed, that's how the Body of Christ should function. God wants to use us in each other's lives as messengers of comfort and encouragement, to pick up each other at those weary and frightened moments of our lives. God has given us each other for that purpose.

Paul goes on to say he was comforted by the good report Titus brought to him of the concern for his welfare by his friends in Corinth. Paul needed to know they cared, they hadn't forgotten him, and they still loved him.

How often do we miss these opportunities to be God's comfort in the lives of others? How often do we need to be by a friend's side when they're experiencing dark days? Or send a message to them—by text or snail mail or on the phone—just to say, I care.

Hallmark Cards has coined the phrase, "When you care enough to send the very best." When we as Christians care enough about each other, we can send our very best, which is the comfort of God pouring through us to those who need it.

Is there someone in your life today that needs a Titus? Ask God to show you and allow him to use you as his agent of comfort and encouragement.

Day Five

As I was reading John 7 recently, I saw again how God is not impressed with the same things that impress us.

In this chapter, the Pharisees were trying to get rid of Jesus. They sent the temple guards to arrest him. But instead of arresting Jesus, the guards started listening to him. They'd never heard anyone like Jesus before, and they were captivated. Later when they went back to the chief priests and Pharisees without Jesus, they were confronted. *Why didn't you bring him in?* asked the Pharisees.

They answered, *No one ever spoke the way this man does.*

You mean he has deceived you also? the Pharisees retorted. *Has any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.*

The Pharisees pointed out none of the religious leaders and educated clergy had believed in Jesus, so therefore he couldn't be for real. Jesus had no diplomas hanging on the wall, no titles after his name. He didn't associate with the recognized leaders of his day. Just because the mob was impressed with

Jesus didn't mean anything to the Pharisees because they saw the common person as uneducated, and their views were therefore not important.

Just like us, the Pharisees judged people by earthly measures: What family did you come from? What school did you go to? What positions have you held? Jesus didn't measure up in any of those categories, so the Pharisees rejected him.

Today we all tend to be impressed with achievements, titles, and positions. But remember, earthly credentials are meaningless to God. Throughout the ages God has used people who look unusable to us. It doesn't mean we shouldn't try to learn and grow and achieve. It just means we must constantly remind ourselves that our achievements and credentials don't carry any weight with God.

One thing impresses God: a heart that desires to know and love him above all else. I'm thankful God isn't impressed with earthly credentials, because that means everyone, including me, can please God regardless of what the world thinks of us.