
Setting Aside Our Own Agendas

Philippians 2:4

Date Night

Heading home on a Friday evening, Jack looks forward to his date with his wife. As he turns into the driveway, he catches the eye of a new neighbor moving in. He grabs his briefcase and dashes into the house to change. He only has an hour before they leave for the evening, and he wants to get a good workout in at the gym. So, to avoid having to meet the new neighbor he slips out the side door.

As Jack and his wife leave for their date, she notices the neighbor and suggests a quick meeting. But Jack is anxious to go out with his wife, so he promises they'll meet then, another time.

At church on Sunday, it is Jack's turn to serve as greeter. Sam, one of the deacons, finds Jack. "Hey, Jack, I want you to meet someone who just moved into your neighborhood," says Sam. They approach, but the visitor does so hesitantly, tentative about meeting Jack.

Jack extends his hand to the new visitor, the one whom he avoided in order to get to his workout a few days earlier.

Reflection

Is your time so precious that you have no room to think of spending time reaching out to someone else? One very important aspect of humility is thinking beyond your own needs and caring about your neighbor's. Jack was so concerned with his own agenda that selfishness caused him to miss an opportunity to reach out to someone in need.

Accountability and Application

Allow time for unexpected chances to reach out to others. Don't be so driven by your own schedule that you miss an opportunity for ministry. Remember, your time is not your own; it is given to you by God. You should always be available to be used of the Lord. It may not always be convenient, but it's a matter of an attitude that says that your brother's interests are more important than yours.

Have you ever done something like Jack did?

How can you change to make yourself more available to God?

Prayer: *Lord, help me to be less selfish about the time that you've entrusted to me. Help me to humbly submit each day to you.*

Philippians 2:4 (New International Version)

⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

