

Intro: John 10:10 “I have come that you might have life, and have it overflowing in you...”
That kind of life...a life of abundance...spiritual overflow where the Spirit is so active in us...overflows to all around us

- Learning from Jesus:
- Loving Like Jesus
- Today: Living Like Jesus

Overflow Vs Overload

Luke 2:41-51 Pg 725

These are the very first recorded words of Jesus in the Bible. When we look at them and understand them, we get a clear picture of how His entire life is going to unfold. This event sets the tone for everything that follows...here we see Jesus teaching his disciples...and us...how to live!

Here is what I want you to see. Jesus lived a life of Overflow; Everywhere He went: Blessed, Built, Strengthened, Encouraged And He was NEVER in a hurry! Never once do you hear him say...Hey guys..hurry up...got important things to do! Never once do you see him rushing...running...Not getting everything done. And keep in mind...that is in light of the fact that ALL he had to do was save the world...3 years...Build a church forever! When on Cross...able to say: It is Finished!

We on the other hand...we don't live Overflow...we Live Overload! ALWAYS running, always rushing, always hurried late! We never seem to have enough time, we never seem to be able to get everything done, We go to bed at night longer list than start

Illus: Charlie Brown: *Everyone was put here to accomplish a certain number of things...At rate I'm going never be able to die!*

3 Things I want to say to you about living like Jesus: Overflow Vs Overload

1. Remember Your Higher Accountability.

Vs 48

Every single one of us has a series of authorities in our life. And, as a follower of Jesus we are accountable to those that God has put in those positions.

~Children to parents

~Employees to Boss

~Husband and Wife to one another

God has put those people in our lives, and He has ordained them...blesses them with responsibility, we are accountable Those are all good things...but we must always keep in mind that our ultimate authority is to the Father. We need to remember that...because sometimes...everyone else forgets!

So, when Mary and Joseph found Jesus, and she said to him, “Your father and I have been searching, why did u treat us this” Jesus reply reveals to us this principle of Higher Accountability.

“Why are you surprised...didn't you know I must be about my Father's business!”

- Jesus Had Two Fathers

~ Earthly Father:

I honor him, I am obedient to him, I want to please and make him proud

~Heavenly Father

But there is another to whom I owe a Higher Accountability, and I am serving Him here!

Notice this...I think it is true for all of us. If we aren't careful, we get caught up in the expectations of others...and forget that our ultimate responsibility is to God! The everyday rush and busyness of life can easily cause us to FORGET our Higher Accountability. That's what happened to Mary and Joseph. In the understandable panic of losing a child...and if you have ever had that happen, you know the feeling...they totally forgot what Jesus remembered. Higher Accountability

~Why are you surprised?

~Where else would I be?

~What else would I be doing?

~Don't you know...I have to be busy serving my higher authority.

Applic: We forget that...I do it every single day...sometimes multiple times a day!

I get up, and I start my day off right: Today God I'm going to serve you: Honor You: Walk with you: Keep my focus on You But then something happens...car doesn't start, Bill I'm not expecting, health problem, fight w my wife...

All of my good intentions ...Go right out the window...and I find myself serving everything...and everyone...But God!

I totally forget the higher authority in my life, because I am caught up in the burden of everyday

2. Jesus Embraced The One “MUST” In His Life!.

Vs 49

Jesus had one must:

VS 49 I “Must Be about my Father's Business!”

Most of us have a 5...or 10...or 20 SHOULDs! There are a whole series of “Important” Things we have to get done.

And because of that we live a life of rush, hurry and overload. Instead of having OVERFLOW...We live OVERLOAD!

We don't live a life that is so full of God, so in touch with Him, so connected and in touch that we find spiritual power flowing from within. Instead, we are living a life of OVERLOAD, where there is so much ON us that we don't have anything IN us!

We don't live a life that is nourishing to us...and to others...where we have so much that we have something to share.

We live a life that drains us, empties us, and when we meet someone we want to know: What can I GET...not what can I GIVE!

Jesus was exactly the opposite. Everywhere He went He was blessing...giving...nourishing...building...strengthening

That's what overflow is...Overflow says: I KNOW why I am here...I KNOW WHAT I am doing...I KNOW What important

And because of that...I can say “No” to a lot of different things...because they don't fit into my “Must” SHOULD's Fade

Illus: Give you a personal example: For 3 years...I didn't go to Cuba on a mission trip. I felt like I SHOULD go...BUT My "must" is to pastor RTBC. If I can do that...AND do Cuba...great...but that wasn't the case. Needed here Many people didn't understand that...here...or there...*You lost your love, You lost compassion, No longer important* No...I have a different "must"

Jesus knew from day one what his "Must" was. He knew it...Embraced it, Lived it...Never Deterred from it.

Vs 49: "*I MUST Be about my Fathers business!*"

Half a dozen times during His ministry Jesus repeated those words..."I MUST" go to Jerusalem, Suffer, Die, When someone tried to get Him to move away from it....He called them out!

Mr 8:31 *He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

Mk 8:27-33 "Get behind me Satan!"

Applic: What is Your "Must?" Have you been able to clearly identify what it is that you MUST do to honor God...serve Him When you KNOW that...and live it out...You can have overflow....otherwise...live Overload! Always be living with a dozen priorities...none of which you can actually focus on...

ILLUS: Like the guy in the circus with the plates....

But...When you know your "Must" You can give it 100% You can pour yourself into it...KNOW what God wants! I'm not sure what your "must" is: But I can guarantee you this: ALWAYS Redemptive! Always about people/God I cant define that for you...you and Jesus have to work that out...But it is out there. When you get it...FOCUS

3. Sometimes Your MUST Doesn't Look Very "Spiritual" From The Outside Vs 51

Vs 51: Jesus went down to Nazareth and was obedient to them. For 20 or so years....!!! Never hear another word!!!

You see, we make the mistake of thinking that our "must" has to look like some super spiritual activity.

Has to be Church, Evangelist, Deacon, SS, Endless series of mission trips,

And, if it doesn't incorporate that...then it isn't very important.

Notice this: Jesus spent 20 years or so...Being obedient...To Parents...and To God...Do EXACTLY what God wanted!

Quote: "*The carpenters shop can be just as holy a place as the Temple when you are being obedient to the Fathers will!*"

- Must is Redemptive: Always about bringing people and God together
- Must is Obedient: Always about living out the will of God...Doing what He says
- Must is Personal: Never like anyone else...Unique to YOU!

Your "Must" Can be a Stay at home mom: Building your children into men and women of God! No one else can!

Your "Must" Can be at work...Put right there: For Such a time as this!

Your "Must" Can be Small Group Leader: SS Teacher Deacon Youth Worker: Investing in People of God

Your "Must" Can be Work with your hands lead a quiet life...just like Thessalonians says!

Here is the key you have to understand: No one can define your "must" but you! You and Jesus have to work that out!

If you let others do it...they will pull you in 1000 different directions...and you will live OVERLOAD...Not OVERFLOW

YOU SHOULD..... But when you know the MUST that God calls YOU to....You can give it 100%

CONCL: Questions that help you define YOUR Must!

1. Redemption: What am I uniquely placed to do where I can connect people to God?
2. Obedience: What does the bible say about where I am and what I do?
3. Sacrifice: What do I need to let go of in order to pursue my "must" (Poor golfer)
4. Investment: Cost: Jesus gave all he had for his, poured his life into others
5. Focus: I must go through Samaria (*Redemption, Obedience, Focus*)
Leave 100's in order to preach teach: "*that is why I have come*"
Stop and play with kids....Redemptive...*Kingdom of God is like these!*

This week...I want to challenge you...Live a life of Overflow!

Sway the OVERLOAD of SHOULD....For the OVERFLOW of MUST!!!

Pray as we close...that God will give you eyes to see the ONE THING that only YOU can do for the kingdom

Then lay everything aside...and go pursue it with all that you have.