

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually Luke 8:1-15

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually

To say that life is getting more hectic is to say the obvious.

What can we say about our need to take time for ...

Prayer

Bible study

Meditation on spiritual things

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually

### It Does Take Time to Grow Spiritually

It takes “quantity” time as well as “quality” time.

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation”

1 Peter 2:2

This can hardly be done “on the run” even in these days of portable media devices!

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually

### Time, Like Money, Must Be Managed Well to Achieve Spiritual Ends

Time and money are things over which we must exercise good stewardship – and sometimes we fail to do so.

Luke 15:11-16 The Prodigal Son

“Prodigal” = recklessly wasteful, extravagant. From Latin *prodigere* (“to squander”).

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually

### Our Problem Is Often the Problem of Over-Commitment to Activities that Compete with Our Devotional Lives

Your heart says, “Don’t do it, your priorities will suffer” and your mouth says, “Why sure, I’d be happy to do that.”

Not taking time for “maintenance” is always a risky, and a foolish thing.

Martha – Luke 10:38-42

## Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually

### Our Problem Is Often the Problem of Over-Commitment to Activities that Compete with Our Devotional Lives

While we are “busy here and there,” our spiritual lives disappear. – 1 Kings 20:39-40

Burnout may be a danger for some, but many of us may be more likely to fizzle out.

### **Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually**

**Jesus Is Our Perfect Example in the Matter of Private Devotion to His Heavenly Father**

None of us come close to being as pressed for time as the Lord.

Yet Jesus made the necessary arrangements for time  
→ alone with the Father – Matthew 14:13-23;

Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12

Apparently, this was Jesus' habit – Luke 5:16; John 18:2

### **Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually**

**We Must Exercise the Discipline Necessary to Spend Time Alone with God**

We can learn to distinguish between the urgent and the important and devote adequate time to the important.

We can, among other things, turn the TV off.

→ "Take Time to be Holy"

We can build some quiet spaces somewhere in there amongst our many other activities.

### **Taking the Time to Grow Spiritually**

#### **Conclusion**

We won't make progress if we don't "give ourselves" to spiritual things.

"Be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may be manifest unto all." 1 Timothy 4:15

→ We need, in all of this, to ask the Lord's help.  
cf. Luke 11:1-10