



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

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Friday, July 23, 2021

Scripture: Luke 5:18-20

TITLE: Opening Your Space

“I just don’t have the time.” That is the phrase of the day. Maybe your version is, “I’m too busy.” Regardless, this is a common sentiment for virtually all things. That is except for our hobbies, the binge sessions of our favorite shows, or whatever else we want to prioritize. Unfortunately for churches and individuals, outreach is often thrown in the “too busy” quadrant. And I get it - You are busy. Our schedules are full. But when we look at our Lord and Savior, He was never too busy for ministry. Yes, He took time for rest, quiet, and prayer. But when people cried out to Him, He was available. He made space for people.

Consider these encounters:

In Luke 18, Jesus was asked to bless the children. He stopped and blessed the children.

Just a few verses later in Luke 18, Jesus was asked to give sight to the blind man. Jesus opened his eyes.

In Luke 7, the Roman officer approached Jesus to heal his slave. Jesus didn’t rebuke him for the interruption, or make a case to end slavery. Instead, He said the word, and the servant was healed.

Last but not the end of examples, consider what happened when Jesus was teaching at a home in Luke 5:18-20. Listen to this:

“Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, ¹⁹but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”

Jesus is the pinnacle of opening space for the lost and the broken. Jesus had eyes to see the lost, and the mission of seeking and saving was always on His mind. The question is, do you? Do I? How do we view the people in our lives? Do we look at them as interruptions or as divine appointments? Do we order our lives in a way that enables us to respond when needs arise? If we want to bring Christ and His Gospel to the people around us, we must make space daily for those who are broken, hurting, and estranged from God.

So here’s my challenge for you today. Make space for people. How can you intentionally and actively make space for people?

Can you spend 15-30 minutes out on your front porch to catch a neighbor walking by and engage in a conversation?

Could you visit a local coffee shop and look for that person sitting alone and ask to sit down?

Could you make sure you view your task list as flexible, so when the need arises for help or counsel, you are available?

Whatever it is, make space for the lost. They need that soul-saving Gospel. Will you be available to deliver it? It's my prayer we will.