

I would like to read 1 Kings 20:35-41(reading text).

Notice the statement the man made in v. 40, "As thy servant was busy here and there he was gone." How often we've had to make a statement like that ourselves. What is worse? I think only one thing is ~~worse~~ worse: "As thy servant was not busy he was gone." Are yu busy? Are you truly making your time count? Most of us usually fall far short in this. How easy it is to waste time. How easy it is to think, I have to write this paper. It's not due for two weeks. I can do it next week. I've got this lesson to prepare for day after tomorrow; I can do this tomorrow. There's something I'd like to see on TV. I'd like to see it now. There's some light reading I'd like to do.

Or you just don't think. You take the next thing that comes to hand, and you do it. The time slips away. Then there is a situation where things crowd in upon you. And you can't get the job done. Are you really busy? That's one thing that is not really found in this verse. It's found many places in the Scriptures. We find it in the book of Prov. 26:29, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business he shall stand before kings. . . ." Benjamin Franklin when he stood before the king of France remembered that as a youth he'd often heard this book read. He certainly had been diligent in his business, and there he was standing before the king of France and playing a great part in winning the independence of the U.S.

Paul also expresses this, in 1 Cor. 9, he expresses the thought that we should be active, diligent, we should endeavor to make all our efforts count. "Know ye know that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize. So run that ye may obtain."

When you come to a corner and there's a red light and you have to wait a few minutes and you're in a hurry to get somewhere. What do you do? Do you just sit and stew and wish it would turn and think how terrible it is you have to wait and you may not get there as soon as you expected? Or do you review a few Greek verbs? Or go over a few Hebrew paradigms? Or even perhaps simply relax and practice relaxation? That will put you in better shape to do things well afterwards. Do you make the minutes count? How much time most of us waste. Are you truly busy? Can you say, As thy servant was busy here and there?"

There's a second question I think we should ask which this verse suggests; and which is brought out more clearly in what Paul says in 1 Cor. 9:19-27. Let's look at those vv. (reading text). We are to be busy, but we are to be busy intelligently. I believe 9/10 of people, maybe 8/10th of the people waste a great deal of time. I believe there is one tenth of people who work so hard and so unintelligently perhaps that they have a nervous breakdown and never reach their goal. To be busy intelligently is wisely taking care of yourself. By learning to relax. By learning not to be all stiff and tense but learning to relax and you do things twice as well.