

Making Room

Intro: *We all make room in our lives for what we think is important. When we don't make space for God, we make space for stupidity, anxiousness, or business. A full schedule, bank account, or followers doesn't mean a full life.*

John 10:10b (AMP)

I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].

- Relationships are manual, not automatic. There are different gears for different seasons. When any relationship, including our one with God, goes on automatic then it is taken for granted and marginalized.
- Jesus came so that you can enjoy life, not just live it, or survive it.

Living intentionally with God next year means making room for Him to do whatever He wants to do in and through us!

2 Kings 4:8-10 (NLT)

8 One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. 10 Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by."

Woman from Shunem- *wealthy, successful, had everything she needed, what others aspired to be like yet, she wanted more.*

Elisha- *holy man, prophet (messenger of God), in that day God only spoke through such men.*

INVITATION: *This shows God we mean business.*

...she urged him to come to her home for a meal.

- Ask Him! This is not a once-a-month or once-a-week thing... It's every day, sometimes multiple times. Followership is Fellowship
- It's making a conscious choice to involve The Lord in your affairs.
- We lose Him, He doesn't lose us: Mary and Joseph
- Sometimes we expect Jesus to follow us. (Isn't He with me everywhere I go?)

Yes, but He called us to follow Him. He's in charge, He knows where He is going.

Ezekiel 11:19 (Amp)

And I will give them one heart [a new heart] and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony [unnaturally hardened] heart out of their flesh and will give them a heart of flesh [sensitive and responsive to the touch of their God].

- Some things that we invite into our lives or things that work their way have a way of hardening our hearts.
- Intentionally making room for God every day keeps one's heart soft and responsive.

COLLABORATION: *It's better to make room for God in community.*

She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. Let's build..."

- The Bible, the Gospel, and Christianity are understood and experienced through the community. (OT is written to a community. NT is written to the church.)

59 One Another Commands in the Bible

- Be at peace with one another Mark 9:50*
- Love one another - (15 times)*
- Honor one another Romans 12:16*
- Live in harmony with one another... Romans 12:16*
- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you... Romans 12:16*
- Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13*
- Carry each other's burdens... Galatians 6:2*
- Forgiving each other... Ephesians 4:32*
- Encourage one another daily... Hebrews 3:13*

- There's something special about building the Kingdom with other for others. (Dream Team and Grow Team: This is you!)
- Who are you building? Who is building you? Who are you building with?

1 John 4:12 (Amp)

No man has at any time [yet] seen God. But if we love one another, God abides (lives and remains) in us...

RENOVATION: *You must convert space that could be used for something else.*

"Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by."

- She thought of the furniture to ensure Elisha was comfortable.
- Sometimes we live for our own comfort or the comfort of others when it is most important that God is comfortable here. (Our songs, words, thoughts, choices)
- This doesn't happen overnight. We get everything we need when we believe in Jesus but it's through our relationship with Him that I learn where the furniture goes.
- He doesn't share the room. "I will share my glory with no one" This is good news. He doesn't want us to have a watered-down version of Him. He gave us the fullness of God in Jesus. (Col 1)

Isaiah 42:8 (VOICE)

I am the Eternal One. I Am is My name. My beauty is unique, a weighty splendor all My own. And nothing else—no idols could possibly gain My praise.

- When you make room for His Word, you make room for His presence.
- He shows us what we need to make room for: peace, forgiveness, rest, gratitude.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

C. S. Lewis described this process with the following analogy: "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on... But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of... You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

EXPECTATION: *We can't wait for what God will do.*

- The woman created space for God because of what MIGHT happen. She didn't realize that in the very room she built, she would receive a special word from the Lord, a miracle, and comfort during the loss of a loved one.
- Your expectations are making room for something or someone.
- God can do anything! He has great expectations for your year. He wants to stir greater expectation in us for what He might do.
- Paul describes a childlike expectation in Romans 8 and Eph 3

Romans 8:15 (Message)

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?"

Ephesians 3:20-21(AMP)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us,

When you make room for God, He fills it with Himself.

"Then he will have a place to stay..."

RESPONSE: Song: "I will make room for you."