

Wasting Time with God.

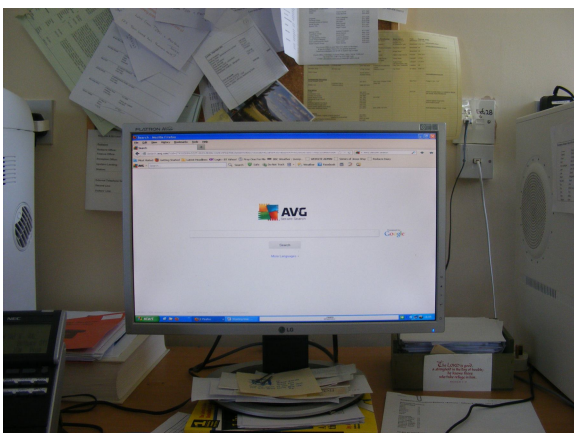
“Creating an empty space is one of the most daunting challenges we face”.¹ For most of us it takes both courage and discipline to do it. Wasting time with God goes against our nature. It doesn't look so good either with other folk rushing around us! We all want to impress. As soon as the slightest sign of an empty space in our day appears we hurry to fill it. This or that must be done when quite often “this or that” could be left until the next day. Our too busy lives leave us over-stimulated, sometimes anxious and often on edge. Is it worth the price we are paying and the peace we are forfeiting? The pace of life has quickened considerably. We are always available when our mobile is switched on and in our pocket. We don't have time to think, as we drive from one appointment to another.

When busyness isn't our problem then often entertainment is. There is a vast industry created to amuse and distract us. We can fill our spare time with one press of a button on our handset. Someone described to us recently the near panic in one household when the television broke down. Boredom is feared, sometimes communication has already broken down and we fill the space. This is not to say that the TV or the Internet is inherently evil. They can be informative and relaxing but living indiscriminately with opinions that are presented as truth, canned laughter and continual noise can only in the end do us harm. We become indoctrinated by the world and where is God in all this? If we are honest, he isn't.

The space was often there in previous ages in a way that it isn't today. St. Paul's life can lead us to look on in admiration at the work he did but there must have been breathing-space as he travelled by foot between cities. We know that he withdrew into Arabia soon after he became a Christian.² Similarly with John Wesley there must have been thousands of hours for quiet thought, prayer and reading, (yes, he really did read!) as he travelled on his horse. Perhaps Jesus is the one most like us working in a small area, crowds surrounding him, needs all around. It must have been very difficult for him to create space to be alone with his heavenly Father but he did it.³

Wasting time with God gives us time to reflect, not alone but with the Holy Spirit. It allows the peace of God to enter our hearts and minds. It is healing. Creativity is released. There are gifts within each of us waiting for the kiss of life.

Be brave; switch off the television and the computer. There is no need to be afraid of the silence. Let it welcome you. The Lord Jesus is waiting with arms held out. Resist the busyness. “Be still and know that I am God.”⁴ Waste time with God.



Switch it off and spend the time with God.

¹ Strangers to the City Michael Casey

² Gal. 1:17

³ Luke 5:16

⁴ Ps. 46:10