

REAL LIFE
Made for Monday
Luke 10:38-42
April 8, 2018

There is something that most of us are really good at. This one thing is something that many of us do out of self-preservation. Some of us do it because it's the way we learned to handle life from our family of origin. Some of us do it because it keeps life simple and uncomplicated. Here's what a lot of us have in common...we compartmentalize our lives. We put areas of our lives in boxes and then we visit the box when necessary. Other than that, the box is closed, out of sight, out of mind, right. It's like this. Each one of these boxes represents an area of our lives. Each box is an aspect of our lives such as family, or work, or a hobby, or the kids. We all do this to some extent. We have the box for work, the box for fun, the box for our children, the box for him/her, the box for the relatives, the box for finances, the box for friendships, the box for the hobbies we enjoy...okay, you get the idea, right.

We compartmentalize our lives.

We compartmentalize our lives so that we are only in one box at a time. So, we go to work and on the way to work or as we're walking in the door at work we open the box labeled "work." And when we are on the way home we close the work box and open the box labeled "gym" because we're stopping there to work out on the way home. Then we close that box and open the "gotta cook supper" box. We're not thinking about work, we're thinking about the gym any more...now we're thinking that we're hungry and I wonder what's in the fridge. And as people, we tend to do this because it keeps us sane, doesn't it? We all do this to some extent. Now, women are better at juggling between boxes than men tend to be. It's why women do certain things better than men and men do certain things better than women. Because men tend to open one box at a time and women can open more than one box and move back and forth between them otherwise known as multi-tasking.

But, for most of us, we tend to function best when we're in one of our life boxes at a time. You know how I know. Because if the car repair place calls you while you're at work and wants to talk about how much it's going to cost to fix your car, you have to close the work box and open finance box. And when you hang up, it takes you a little bit to close that box and get the work box back open, doesn't it. As a matter of fact, you may open the work box but, you leave the "how can I afford that" box open and you're distracted for the rest of the day. If anyone asked you how you're doing, you immediately go to the financial box and tell them how much it's going to cost to get your car fixed instead of talking about the project you're working on, right. So, look at how this played out in the lives of two women who had Jesus stop by their house for a visit.

Again, we do this box thing for self-preservation, to stay focused, and for a ton of other reasons, so I get it, I do this too. Martha was doing it when she asked (told) Jesus to send Mary, her sister, into the kitchen to help. Martha had the "I've got to make the supper for Jesus" box open. We all do it...and some of us in the room are really good at focusing like that. Like when the "television" box is open and someone wants to have a conversation with us. But, where this gets really rough is when someone wants to have a conversation about "God Stuff" on Tuesday and it's not Sunday because Sunday is when the "God Stuff" box is open...not Tuesday. And all the sudden our system is getting messed with because someone wants to open a box that we only open on Sundays. You see, I think God would love it if we would open the "God Stuff" box every day. I'm just going to say that again...I believe that God wants us to open the "God Stuff" box and leave it open every day. As a matter of fact, I believe that God wants to be a part of all the boxes we open, every day of our lives. You see, for God, everything you do is something God wants to be a part of. But, what we do is we open the "God Stuff" box on Sunday morning and then we close it at some time on Sunday after church and we think we're good – because that's how we handle all the other things in our lives, right. But God wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives...not just this one area because...

When we follow Jesus there is only one box.

How can we give the proper amount of attention to a career and at the same time not neglect our families, or the church and still keep some time for ourselves? This is hard and it's not getting any easier. According to an article I found on SermonCentral.com: in 1971, *Time Magazine* noted that labor experts were predicting by the year 2000 we would be on a national 4-day work week and have an abundance of leisure time. Those projections have not come true, in fact exactly the opposite has happened. According to a Lewis-Harris poll the length of the average work week has increased 20% since the mid '70's and that trend they say will likely continue through to the next decade. And many people are asking, "What good does it do to have a larger salary, if I don't have any time to enjoy it?" The Lewis-Harris poll showed that 71% of those families earning \$40,000 or more annually would give up a days pay each week for an extra day of free time. "Leisure time, not money, is becoming the status symbol of the new century," says John Robinson, who directs the "American's use of Time" project at the U. of Maryland. "A large segment of Americans," he says, "feel a critical time crunch." A growing number of professionals are balking at schedules that don't match their values and are beginning to understand that the emphasis that they have placed on career success and accumulating money have not really made them happy.

We are constantly wrestling with the boxes...how many can we open at one time; can we add any more to the growing number of boxes we already have. And if "God Stuff" is just one of the boxes, what ends up happening is that God gets squeezed out. All the while, God doesn't want to be just one of the boxes that you open and close but, God wants to be a part of every box, every aspect of our lives. God wants to permeate every box and everything you do...work, home, kids, finances, friendships, fun stuff, and everything else you do.

So, how do we change our thinking so that God is a part of everything we do instead of a box we open and close on Sunday mornings? And while I don't know you like I know me, I believe that this first thing can be life changing. We need to open the God box first thing in the morning, before we open any other box, or we will get caught up in the stuff of life and we will forget to go back and open the God box. We will start doing things and opening boxes in our own strength and out of our own insufficient wisdom and we will start messing things up and doing things without God if we don't get God involved in every aspect, every decision, every relationship in our lives. It doesn't matter if you go to the gym first thing in the morning, it doesn't matter if you're busy getting the kids out the door, it doesn't matter if you're getting ready for work, it doesn't matter if you make your coffee and watch Good Morning America...we all need to engage God first thing before we do anything else or the things we do we will end up doing without the power and the providential movement of a God who has great things in store for us if we would just get Him involved because...

God's design for us is to be in relationship.

We were made for engagement with God beyond Sundays...we are made for Monday's too. So, first thing, every morning, we need to sit at the feet of Jesus for a little bit. Jesus told Martha that by sitting at his feet and paying attention to the one who had come to their house, that Mary had made the right choice. Martha had forgotten to open the "Jesus box" and instead she had the "I've gotta get the food cooked, the table set, and the house cleaned" box open. And to her, all she could see...because God was not involved in her thinking...was that Mary wasn't helping. Notice that she says to Jesus, "*Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work?*" You see, if we don't open the God box first, before we open any other box, we run the risk of seeing life from our perspective only. And there are times when we have gotten so focused on the boxes we have open instead of God that we've felt like life just isn't being fair.

Have you ever said that...life's just not fair? We have all said it haven't we. And if we have God first in our lives, like Mary did, then life is not about being fair it's about being devoted. Life is not about juggling our time and our resources back and forth between boxes and not being able to do everything we want to do, it's about being focused on what God wants us to accomplish, and what boxes God wants us to have open. And there is no way we can make it through and keep our faith in tact if we don't open the day with God and leave that box open all day long so that we are open to influence and direction of our Lord...who would love nothing more than for us to choose to pay attention to his voice and his guidance and his direction in our lives first and foremost. If you don't put God first you will look at life with feeling of guilt about the boxes you can't open or

feel overwhelmed at the boxes you can't get to or feel like life's unfair because you are in a season of life that doesn't allow you to open a box that you really love. You might have young children and the "hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work we go" box isn't happening right now and you're missing that. And because God has you in one season of life right now, we need to invite Jesus in to help us see the value and the purpose of the boxes we can open.

Because here's what's up...Jesus knows that food needs prepared. Jesus knows that there are things that need done. Jesus knows that you have commitments to fulfill and bills to pay and children to care for and parents to look after. Jesus knows all of that...better than we do. And if you noticed, it says in the Bible that Martha was what: *distracted* (Luke 10:40 NLT). So, what Jesus is saying to Martha is to put him first, then get to all those things that need done. Jesus knows what your to-do list looks like. He knows and he wants to guide you on how to live on Monday, not just on Sunday. He knows that it is so easy to get distracted on Monday, even after a fantastic worship experience with God on Sunday. We wake up Monday morning and we start opening boxes as we go through all the things we want to accomplish during the day. It's so easy to get distracted and to forget to engage with Jesus unless we do it on purpose knowing and trusting that God's higher ways and greater plans need to be a part of our lives every day...not just on Sunday. The way...

To keep our God box open, be intentional about our faith.

At CrossPoint, we actually have a way we believe we can be intentional. Our membership covenant, for everyone who takes that next step to be a part of our church, we outline 5 practices that help us with our intentionality.

One of the ways we can get the guidance and direction from God on how we are to manage all the tasks and responsibilities and fun stuff we want to do sit to pay attention to God's Word. Reading the Bible daily helps us experience how God works, how God thinks, how God has acted in the past and therefore – will act in the future and just how God see each of us. Reading this book is the way to discover who God is, who we are and how we are supposed to live. To not read this book is like having the owner's manual to a care and never looking at it. Right, we all do that don't we. And the only time we go to the owner's manual is when there's a problem. But, if we already know God, if we've already opened the God box, then when trouble comes we are better equipped and better qualified to handle it because God's already in it.

The other way to make sure that we're living on Monday what we believe on Sunday is to ramp up our prayer lives to a place where we are talking with God through out the day. When you wake up each morning God is there, ready to have a conversation with you. God's love creates a desire in God for conversation with us. And the God who knows all, who sees all, wants to help you through the day. You have a guide for life and light on your path. You have a comforter and a promise keeper. You have a hope builder and grace giver. You have all you need for every day, because you were made for more than just Sunday's. You were made to worship every day of the week...you were made for Monday's. And it's my hope that you learned today just how important it is to make sure that God is a part of your Monday's just like He is on your Sunday's.

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