

THE OVER-CROWDED LIFE

December 28, 2014 Matthew 13:18-23 by Bob Branch

MAIN IDEA: Overcrowding chokes the life of God from our lives, but there is a way out.

“The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.” **Matthew 13:22**

What has crowded God out of your world?

- **Crowding happens when we take good things and make them ultimate things.**

“But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed.”

Deuteronomy 8:19 NLT

Q: What “good things” in your life are dangerously close to becoming “ultimate things”? Or are they ultimate?

- **Crowding happens when we fail to say “No” enough.**

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “*you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better*, and it will not be taken away from her.” **Luke 10:38-42**

Q: How busy are you? (scale of 1-10)

- **Crowding happens when we fail to prioritize what is most important.**

“... when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” **Deuteronomy 6:10–12**

COMMITMENTS... CHOICES... HABITS!

1. **Put Jesus at the CENTER** or back at the center.

“Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God.” **1 Chronicles 22:19** ESV

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” **Matthew 6:33**

2. **Develop and invest in your “HOME TEAM”**

Mark 9:2 (5:37; 14:33; Mat. 10:1f)

Q: Who is your home team?

3. **Make “LOVING WELL” your target.**

“the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” **1 Timothy 1:5**
NAS

4. **Take time off to SLOW DOWN and recharge.**

Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.” **Mark 2:27** NLT

Q: What do you do for rest? What recharges you?

God-empowered commitments, choices, habits