

# Study Group

## February 2015 Listening Guide



### Master of Inefficiency

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There is often a gap between how we manage our business from an efficiency standpoint and the way that Jesus managed his day-to-day activities. Efficiency sometimes becomes an idol. Idolatry can be defined as “when a good thing becomes an ultimate thing.” What does efficiency from a biblical perspective look like?

**Mission Driven Effectiveness versus Task Driven Efficiency:** Efficiency for efficiency’s sake often is the enemy of relationships. When we are too focused on efficiency, relationships can become interruptions to us.

#### 1. Priorities

**Teaching:** Matthew 6:31-34

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

**Modeling:** Luke 9:1-6

Jesus modeled a life of simplicity where He was more focused on people than on material things. He taught disciples to rely on God for provision while they focused on mission.

**Teaching Point:** Jesus minimized material distraction from His mission and He taught His disciples to do the same. He focused on people and on carrying out His mission.

Application example – In relation to goals, what would happen if we set goals around missional life impact for clients rather than other benchmarks?

Application example – What if we go into client or prospect meetings, taking nothing with us except for a notepad?

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#### 2. Dealing with Distractions and Interactions

**Teaching:** Luke 10:33-35

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

**Modeling:** Luke 7:11-13 is the story of Jesus and the Widow from Nain

As soon as Jesus saw the need of the woman, His immediate response was to go to her and to comfort her.

**Teaching Point:** Jesus never treated people as interruptions. He graciously accepted mission related interruptions. There are numerous examples of Jesus being interrupted in the gospel of Luke. He was interrupted during preaching, teaching, in devotions, at day’s end, with crowds, alone, entering a new town, trying to leave the town He was in. His life was interruption, one after the other.

Application example - Pray for and watch for and expect and welcome unexpected mission related people encounters. Be watching for interruptions and welcome them when they arrive.

Application example – When interruptions occur, treat them as divine appointments. Assume that God has us here now with this person because He wants us to be His agent in their life at that moment.

Application example – (Matthew 18:12-14) There are people out there in need, and Jesus is the solution. We may be the only person in someone’s life who knows Jesus intimately and is walking for the sake of His mission.

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### 3. Structure of Daily Schedule

**Teaching:** John 4: 3-8

“So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’”

**Modeling:**

Jesus’ daily activity always included time margin and scheduling flexibility. (Jesus’ dinner with Matthew, His visit with Zacchaeus, His interaction with Jarius)

**Teaching Point:** We can structure our daily activity to be sure that we always include time margin and scheduling flexibility.

Application example - Never pre schedule more than 70-75% of the day. On a to do list, ask, “Which of these things are really necessary?”

Application example – Always allow more time than you think is necessary for in-person meetings and allow time in between meetings.

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