Why Attend Business Meetings?

Luke 2:49

INTRODUCTION:
A. Lesson Texts:
  1. Luke 2:49 - “. . . Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”
     a. At an any early age, Jesus knew the importance of God’s business being carried out.
     b. Although this was not a business meeting, Jesus was meeting about His Father’s business.
     c. Even at an early age He serves as our example that we, too, should be concerned with God’s business.
  2. John 9:4 - “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”
B. Most preachers, elders, deacons, and concerned Christians have felt the frustrations of trying to get other men within the congregation to attend business meetings.
C. Most of us have tried to encourage other men to attend, only to hear such replies as:
   1. “Oh, you don’t need me.”
   2. “I don’t have the time.”
   3. “It is already cut and dry.”
   4. “They never discuss anything important.”
   5. “I don’t like to argue.”
   6. “They meet too often.”
   7. “I don’t like business meetings”
D. Certainly we would be remiss if we didn’t realize the validity of some of these statements. Permit me to examine each of them in light of the work here.
   1. “Oh, you don’t need me.”
      a. The Lord needs you, and we need you.
      b. You have talents, abilities, wisdom, experiences, and insights that are lacking without you.
   2. “I don’t have the time.”
      a. You have time for the things you really want to do.
      b. If the Lord gave you as much of His time as you give Him of yours, how much of the Lord’s time would you have?
      c. Perhaps it isn’t so much a matter of time as it is a matter of commitment and dedication to the Lord and interest in His work.
   3. “It is already cut and dry.”
BUSINESS MEETINGS – Why Attend Business Meetings

a. Absolutely not!
b. Everything is discussed and everyone has full opportunity to participate and provide their input.
c. Each person has the opportunity to bring up any thing that he wants to. Everyone is asked specifically to do so.

4. “They never discuss anything important.”
a. We discuss the most important business in the world . . . we discuss the Lord’s business.
b. As His stewards of the work He began, we must plan for its continuation, spread, and faithfulness among men.
c. There is no greater work in all the world than God’s work, and there is no greater privilege than to be able to have an active part in it.

5. “I don’t like to argue.”
a. Neither do I, and that is not the tome of our meetings.
b. Perhaps one offering such an excuse has had some experience where arguments were a regular part of the business meetings. Selfishness will lead to such.
c. There can be differences of opinions, judgments, ideas, etc., without arguing.
d. Put the Lord’s will before your own private agenda.

6. “They meet too often.”
a. Not here.
c. If you only ate a meal as often as the men meet, you would starve to death.
d. Elder, deacons, and committee chairmen meet monthly.
e. The elders meet frequently.

7. “I don’t like business meetings.”
a. Why not? Is it because of negative experiences with them somewhere, or is it because you just aren’t interested in the Lord’s work?
b. You can learn to like them. Spiritual growth and increased knowledge and dedication will help.
c. Again, it is the Lord’s business that is being discussed, planned, and carried out. Do you not like the Lord’s business?

E. In this lesson it shall be our purpose to try and provide some incentives and encouragements to all the men of the congregation to attend the business meetings of this good congregation.

F. A word of caution . . . a word of appeal: Please do not judge the meetings here by any unpleasant ones you may have been a part of anywhere and at anytime in the past.
WHAT IS A BUSINESS MEETING?
A. That’s a good question. In a word, it is an expedient matter.
   1. Explain.
   2. It is a time to prayerfully consider the many areas of work carried on by the local church.
B. Things don’t just happen.
   1. It takes vision, planning, work, discussion, etc., to move the local congregation forward.
   2. A good, well-organized business meeting will help produce both short and long range plans that, if properly followed, will help the church to grow.

SEVEN REASONS FOR ATTENDING BUSINESS MEETINGS
A. 1st - Because you are an important member of the church and this congregation.
   1. There are no unimportant members of the Lord’s body.
   2. Paul establishes this truth in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Note eight of the sixteen verses in this passage.
      a. Verse 12 - “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”
      b. Verse 13 - “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”
      c. Verses 18 - “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”
      d. Verse 20 - “But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”
      e. Verses 25-27 - “... There should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
          And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
          Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”
   3. The body, if it is to properly function, must have the strength and activity of each member . . . That means your strength and your activity.
   4. Likewise, if some men don’t attend business meetings, the church suffers. Their knowledge and input will be left out. You are needed!
B. 2nd - Because the business to be discussed is the greatest business in the world— the Lord’s business.
   1. In the everyday business world, meetings are held by the thousands . . . yea, by the tens and tens of thousands . . . to discuss temporal or material things.
   2. Many men will travel great distances, go without food and sleep, to attend such meetings.
3. Yet, although said to say, some of these same men will not attend a church business meeting.
4. They will give their talents and abilities to the advancement of civic organizations and business organizations, and yet deny those same abilities to business meetings designed to advance the Lord’s work.
5. Brethren, we must place the kingdom first in our lives.
   a. Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
   b. The salvation of souls, the edification of the body of Christ on the earth, and the doing of good to all men, are but three important reasons for attending business meetings. These meetings are important!
C. 3rd - Because you let the Lord and others know that you care.
   1. Like it or not, many brethren view those who do not attend business meetings as unconcerned about the Lord’s work, especially in the local congregation.
   2. It’s hard to convince someone you care about the church when you don’t support its programs or attend its meetings.
   3. The Lord has decreed that we let our lights shine. Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
   4. Listen to what Paul penned to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 - “... Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
      a. Who is the better example, the one who attends to the Lord’s business, or the one who does not?
      b. Example is important. What message are you conveying to new Christians when you do not attend the business meetings?
D. 4th - Because of the fellowship.
   1. Business meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for the men of the church to come together in prayer, discussion, and a general sharing of brotherly love.
   2. The church becomes stronger and more united as the members associate one with another.
      a. John 13:35 - “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
      b. Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
E. 5th - Because you have a chance to be heard.
   1. We hear a lot today about what is wrong with the church.
2. Some of those doing the complaining won't lift a finger to do anything about it, or attend business so they can speak out and offer their suggestions and advice in constructive ways to help eliminate these problems.
3. It is still true that actions speak louder than words.
4. The business meeting is where the action is—attend them if you want to be heard. Remember the power of leaven?

F. 6th - Because it will encourage others.
1. We all need encouragement from time to time.
   a. Elders need encouragement from time to time.
   b. Deacons need encouragement from time to time.
   c. Preachers need encouragement from time to time.
   d. All Christians need encouragement from time to time.
2. The opposite of encouragement is discouragement. It is discouraging to see only a few show up for a meeting to discuss the local work.
3. Your presence will encourage the elders, deacons, preacher, and other brethren as well.

C. 7th - Because you have a responsibility.
1. As a child of God, and as a member of the Lord’s church, you have the responsibility to see that:
   a. The gospel is preached. Mark 16:15-16
   b. The poor are helped. James 1:27
   c. Glory is brought to God in the church. Ephesians 3:21 - “To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
2. It is not possible for anyone else to fulfill your responsibility in the local congregation. They are busy filling their own responsibility.

CONCLUSION:
A. It is true that throughout the brotherhood, many business meetings have not been what they should have been.
1. Spending an hour wrangling over what color to paint a classroom.
2. Taking valuable time discussing things that do not pertain directly to the Lord’s work.
3. Keep minutes but waste hours, etc.
B. Folks, if you conducted your personal business in the same way you conducted the Lord’s business, many would soon be out of business.
C. Brethren, let us:
   a. Remember . . . business meetings are for business—the Lord’s business.
   b. Let’s handle them as wise stewards and support them with our presence.
D. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation