

## The Perils of Velocity

"Your servant went out into the thick of the battle. Suddenly a man came over and brought a man to me, saying, Guard this man! If he is missing, it will be your life for his, or you will have to pay a talent of silver. While your servant was busy here and there, [the man] got away.' The king of Israel responded, 'You have your verdict; you pronounced it yourself.'" I Kings 20:39-40

It is the nature of the case that increased technology creates increased expectations. When my father was in business, a client in another state would mail him a contract, he would read it, think about it, get counsel, and then act on it. Today that same contract is faxed or emailed and a decision is expected before lunch. This increase in velocity proves to be destructive for at least four reasons:

1) - Velocity destroys your margin for error. For example, if you ride a bicycle at one mile per hour and fall off, you have one kind of problem; if you ride that bike down a hill at seventy miles per hour and fall off, you have another kind of problem.

2) - Velocity produces a false sense of accomplishment. Although I know better, I feel I am accomplishing more if I am climbing on an airplane than when at home studying.

3) - Velocity distorts your perception of reality. I was riding with a man in his truck on a freeway and he was traveling eighty miles an hour with one hand on the wheel and the other on the back of the seat as he turned to talk with me. He had lost his ability to understand what could happen to him.

4) - Velocity is addictive. Most people learn to enjoy speed and miss it when they lose it.

In this biblical narrative, the man became so busy with the press of life that he failed to give proper attention to the responsibility given him by his king. If you are not careful, the velocity of life can seduce you, resulting in your failure to give proper attention to those responsibilities given you by your King.