

Preserved by Purpose: Ain't Nobody Got Time for That

"I woke up to get me a cold pop and I thought somebody was barbecuing. I said 'Oh Lord Jesus! It's a fire!' Then I ran out. I didn't grab my shoes or nothin' ...I ran for my life...I got bronchitis. Ain't nobody got time for that!" The first time I heard these words by the latest internet sensation floral head scarf and gold tooth wearing Sweet Brown, I gotta admit I burst out laughing. She was so serious about escaping a fire. Then I watched the even funnier auto tuned music video featuring her saying repeatedly, "Ain't nobody got time for that!"

Sweet Brown appears so sincere about making a wise quick decision in the middle of a crisis. Her video is funny but there is a lot of truth in it. She had to stop thinking about her "cold pop" and think about saving her life. She didn't hesitate. She knew she was in danger and got herself to a safe place.

It made me think about how so many of us do the opposite of Sweet: we see danger behind us or ahead of us and do one of two things: we either pretend the danger isn't there or we falsely believe we can handle it. For example, the signs are clear that your relationship isn't healthy, the job is about to fire you and your finances are suffering. Yet, instead of using Godly wisdom, we linger too long and end up getting hurt. Or worse, like Lot's wife, we keep focusing on our past unwilling to look ahead and embrace new opportunities that God is offering. Luke 17:31-33 warns "on that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for

anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it." We continue to make time for and hold onto things that God is trying to get us to let go of. One question you might want to ask yourself as 2013 begins is whether you are foolishly making time for something or someone that you really need to let go of. You keep making time for it or them, but God is showing you through actions and circumstances that you ain't got time for "that" (foolishness and fools) because he has better things for you!

At the start of new year, we should focus on the message of Philippians 3:13-14 that encourages us to focus on the future and bigger picture: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" because after all, "Ain't nobody got time for that!"

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