

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 37

Lesson Title: Mary and Martha

Take Home Point: The one thing that matters most is spending time with Jesus.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a young man who has expressed his love to a young woman. He tells her she is his special friend and that he really enjoys being with her, talking to her, and listening to what she has to say. But like many young people, he is very busy with activities that he wants to do. Many of these activities are good and beneficial, such as exercising to maintain good health, going to church and performing acts of service, and keeping in touch with family and friends. He really wants to spend time with his special friend but seems to have a hard time squeezing that time into his schedule. How do you think she feels about that? How serious do you think he is about his pledge of love and desire to know all about her? How do you think that relationship will grow without time invested in it?

Read: Luke 10:38-41

Observation (What happened?):

Why was Martha distracted and upset?

According to Jesus, what did Martha's busyness keep her from experiencing?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What was it about all the preparations that made them a problem?

What did Mary choose that was better?

Insight:

It is hard to overestimate what Jesus is emphasizing in this Bible account. He understands the basic human desire to do something as a demonstration of respect, caring, or devotion. But he also understands better than we do how this can become an issue of pride, or how it can get in the way of relationships. And relationship is what the spiritual life is about. Why does God reach out to us? Because he wants us to know him, to have a love-based relationship with him. He is a lot more interested in how we relate to him than what we do for him. So, of course, one of Satan's great ploys (and he has several!) is to get us to focus on activities. Lots of them. Even really good activities are fine with him as long as it keeps us too busy for relationships. He knows that the busier we are, the less likely it is that we will spend quality relationship time with Jesus or anyone else. That takes us away from God and what he really wants. That opens all kinds of doors for the devil to tempt us or accuse us or knock us down. We need Jesus. We need to spend time with him to know him, love him, and let him lead us as our loving Guide.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What gets in your way of spending time with Jesus? How do you overcome the temptation?

How do you make sure you spend time with Jesus? What do you do with the time you spend?

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