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Summary:

In this message, Pastor Stephanie explores the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10 to illustrate the difference between religious busyness and having a genuine relationship with God. Contrasting the Old Covenant (based on works and rituals) with the New Covenant (based on relationship and grace through Jesus), she teaches how Martha represents well-intentioned religious activity and distraction, while Mary chose "the better part" - sitting at Jesus' feet in worship and relationship. While serving God isn't wrong, it shouldn't replace intimate time with Him. This message challenges the Church body to examine whether they're living under old covenant thinking (earning God's love through works) or new covenant reality (relationship built on Jesus' finished work) and to make spending intentional. Make genuine time with Jesus the priority for the new year, as relationship with Him builds the faith and trust needed to navigate life's challenges.

Top Points:

1. **Distraction vs. Undistracted Worship** - Martha was distracted by many things, but Mary chose to be undistracted at Jesus' feet
2. **The Better Part** - Jesus didn't say Martha's service was wrong, just that Mary chose what was better
3. **Old Covenant vs. New Covenant** - The old required priestly mediation and sacrifices; the new is written on our hearts through Jesus

4. **Relationship Over Works** - We can't earn God's love through busyness; He desires relationship above sacrifice
5. **Intentional Time** - Spending time with Jesus should be intentional, not just methodical duty
6. **Trust Built Through Relationship** - Martha struggled to believe because she lacked the depth of relationship Mary had
7. **New Covenant Freedom** - Jesus is our permanent High Priest, constantly interceding for us
8. **Heart vs. Duty** - Time with God should flow from desire, not religious obligation
9. **The World Needs Your Relationship** - A strong relationship with Jesus builds faith that helps others
10. **Real Not Religious** - God wants genuine, authentic relationship, not performance

Top Quotations:

1. *"Jesus didn't say, 'Martha, you are wrong, you are sinning.' He didn't say there was anything wrong with it. But He said, 'There's something better and you're missing that.'"*
2. *"It can be really easy to get caught up in all the shouting going on all over this world. Y'all notice that? It is shouting, shouting, shouting. I guess what we should be doing is shouting Jesus."*
3. *"Are you living your life in Jesus as if you're still in the old covenant?-- Where you still feel like you have to earn His love? – Or are you living it in the new covenant? [There's a] big difference."*
4. *"Relationship is what builds trust. When you're spending time at the feet of Jesus, when you're spending time in worship with Jesus, relationship is built. Trust is built."*
5. *"This world needs you to have a relationship with Jesus. This world needs you to have faith that can help them out of the mire."*
6. *"You can't do enough...to earn God's love, but relationship can lift you, and not just you, out of the mire. It can lift others out."*
7. *"God can do more in 30 minutes with me preparing with Him when a relationship is involved than in eight hours when I'm just working (out of a sense of duty)."*