

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday September 22, 2019. "Little Things: Mary and Martha".

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

II Recap.

We are in our third Sunday in our "*little things*" series. We're taking a look at those things in our life that we do have to take care of, but if we're not careful can take over and push out the more important things. There has been a lot of real life, practical, wisdom that has come from this study, but too much to rehash here. We've hit how in our spiritual life, and how we live out our faith, we can elevate our own understanding of God and how we practice our faith as THE way to be, and as Jesus said, "*forget the more important*" aspects of our faith. When we do this we often drive others away. Last week, we talked about how in our daily life, if we don't take care of ourselves, develop a keen sense of self-awareness to our health, (spiritual, emotional, mental), we can allow ourselves to get to a place where we're willing to sacrifice the more important things in our life for the "*little things*". All of these messages, and past devotionals are available on the website.

III Sunday.

Sunday, we looked at a familiar story in which Jesus directly addresses this tendency to be "*distracted by the 'little things'*", and not choose the "*better thing*".

So, let's dig around a little on those issues.

Is being distracted, (not necessarily attention but actions) an issue for you? How so?

If so, what do you find yourself being distracted by?

Can you identify any common threads that may explain what you are distracted by?

The passage Sunday was a short one, with only one specific truth in it.

So read **Luke 10:38-42**, and then we'll hit that one truth.

What jumped out to you about this passage?

What did you see, notice, about distractions?

Do you have any first thoughts about the difference between Martha and Mary?

Other than all the work seemed to fall on Martha. And all of us OCD people ALWAYS notice this.

Jesus said that Martha was distracted by a lot of things, and that Mary had chosen "*what is better*".

These must have been hard words for Martha to hear. A high value in those days was the understanding of hospitality. Not entertaining or showing off, but rather creating an environment in

which the guest would feel at home. There had to be cleaning done, food prepared, dog hairs to be vacuumed up and more. And it looked like Martha was stuck doing it all.

But...and there's always a but, when she expressed her frustration to Jesus, his response almost felt...insensitive. Yes, there was work to be done, but there was something above and beyond what Martha had done, that made those expected tasks something bigger than they probably should have been. Jesus' words would have stung, not because they were uncaring or callous. But possibly because he had pointed out something in Martha's life in which her priorities were out of line.

And it poses the question. What happens in our life, where do we miss it, when our priorities get out of whack?

**So...in your life, how do you know, and we all do it, when your priorities get out of order?
In some brainstorming, why do you think this happens?**

Kal then went on to explain what that one thing Jesus talked about might be. Martha was definitely a follower of Jesus. She had shown previous commitment to the ministry of Jesus. But there was still something missing. This may be what you see in many church cultures to this day. And that is the over emphasis of a one time decision or promise to something, (i.e. Jesus), and miss a commitment to a lifetime of the work it takes to be a disciple of Jesus. Anyone can make a decision, say a prayer, ask Jesus into your heart, (neither of which are in scripture), and not make the adjustments in your daily life to actually become a disciple of Jesus.

These two ideas were contrasted against each other in the example of marriage. Any two people can stand at the altar and make promises, decisions about what their relationship will look like. That's the easy part. But we all know from either experience, or observation, those promises NEVER predict the future success of that marriage. A promise, or a one time decision, do not make a healthy marriage. It is the commitment to the other person, AND the work to grow a healthy relationship that insures the success of a marriage. As a disclaimer, let me say not all marriages that end are because the people did not work hard enough. There are circumstances and situations in which sometimes a relationship just has to end. But, it is rare when there is considerable, regular, effort by both into a marriage to keep it healthy does a relationship end.

And it is the same with living out our faith too. We all have seen those emotional, what seems real in the moment decisions or baptisms, and they weren't followed up with a life committed to doing the work of being a disciple, and that person quickly falls away from that initial decision. And then there are arguments about whether that person was actually a Christian or not. The issue isn't were they actually a Christian. The real issue is: **“did they commit themselves to doing the work of actually following Jesus?”**

This is the key to designing a life that helps us not get sucked into the *“little things”* that distract, but to *“choose what is better”*.

So...for you, what are some specific actions you could work into your daily life to up your commitment to live the life of a disciple rather than just a person who believes in Jesus?

This is the difference it takes.