

My Christmas List

More Devotion, Less Distraction

Craig Smith • December 2, 2018

The greatest personal distraction from spiritual devotion is **busyness**...

Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. (Eccl. 4:6)

☛ **Bondage of busyness: when my responsibilities exceed my capacity** – “I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now...” **(An over-loaded Moses, Num. 11:14-15)**

At the top of my list: create **Mary** moments in a **Martha** month...

As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. (Luke 10:38)

- **Teachability before productivity** – “She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what He said.” **(Luke 10:39)**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

Take moments to **listen**

- **Relationship before responsibility** – “But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’” **(Luke 10:40)**

Take moments to **love**

- **Important over the urgent** – “‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’” **(Luke 10:41-42)**

Take moments to **live**

📍 **In preparing for that day (Christmas), don’t skip over this day** – “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” **(Psalm 118:24)**

The goal of our devotion is to know the One who made God knowable...

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known. (John 1:18)