

NEW YEAR - PRIORITY SETTING - Reality vs Priority

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Part of New Year's Message 2023

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Passage of Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Main point: Our priorities will be reflected in how we live our lives.

Three real people we are focusing on today.

Jesus, Mary, and Martha.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)

—John 11:1-2 (NIV)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 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!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

—Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

1. Having Jesus in your home is a great start.

Is Jesus a decoration in your home?

Is he a visitor in your home?

Is he Lord of your life?

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

—Luke 10:39 (NIV)

2. Christians know Jesus is Savior and Lord.

-Savior because of his death and resurrection on the cross for all of humanities sin.

-The Lordship of Christ means we know and have accepted His position as the Son of God.

How do we listen to Christ?

In his word and in prayer.

Two simple ways to figure out how active Jesus is in your life.

Where is your Bible?

When do you pray?

If you have kids or have parents/adults you live with.

When do you talk about Jesus and what he is teaching you in his word?

What I have learned from other people. HAVE A STRATEGY FOR BATTLE.

A strategy focuses outward on things you can't control, and can measure success.

A plan focuses inward, on things you can control, and measures performance.

- **Pray and listen first!**
- **Define how God measures success-**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

—Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

- **Everyone has a calendar, use it.**
- **High/ lows**
- **Time with no tech- make the boundaries clear to you and everyone else.**
- **Keep Bible readings to conversations with God and other Christians.**
- **NO BIBLE IN A YEAR!!!!!!**

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 10:40-42 (NIV)

3. Our choices in priority pull us away from Jesus.

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

—Luke 10:41

We have two options for 2023.

*Like a dog that returns to his vomit
Is a fool who repeats his foolishness.*

—Proverbs 26:11 (Amplified Bible)

*Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash
your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you
double-minded.*

—James 4:8 (NIV)

*For physical training is of some value, but godliness has
value for all things, holding promise for both the present
life and the life to come.*

—1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

*Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life,
righteousness, and honor.*

—Proverbs 21:21 (ESV)

*For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your
heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek
first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all
these things will be added to you.*

—Matthew 6:32-33 (ESV)