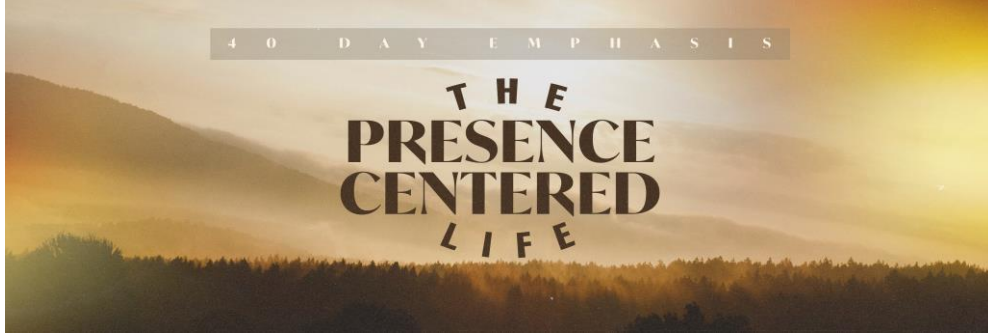


FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ Sunday, October 22nd, 2023

The Presence Centered Life 40 Days Emphasis – October 8th – November 16th



Part 2: "The Choice"

Luke 10:38-42

Review:

Series Theme: Everything Flows from the Presence of the Lord

Spiritual Principle: The highest honor for every follower of Christ is possessing and experiencing God's essential presence.

Today's Truth:

Spiritual Principle: Every believer determines the degree to which they experience God's essential presence. Each of us are as close to God as we choose to be at any given moment.

"He approached the twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out preach..." Mark 3:14

"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
1 Corinthians 1:9

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer." Acts 2:42

1. **Mary** – made the right choice to be near Jesus and was _____ - Luke 10:38-39

2. **Martha** – made the wrong choice and became _____, _____,
_____, and _____ - Luke 10:40

3. **Jesus** – made clear what ultimately is most important for all His followers – being in the _____ of the Lord – Luke 10:41-42



Growth Group Study Guide – October 22nd – 29th

Getting Started

Group Discussion: What is one thing in your life that is very helpful to you and why? (examples: contact lenses, Google maps).

Begin in Prayer.

Welcome to week #3 of our Presence Centered Life 40 Days Emphasis. Be sure to read Days 15-21 this week in our devotional book, *The Essential Presence – 40 Days to Increased Intimacy with God*.

Digging Deeper

1. Review the “Today’s Truth” on the front page of the notes. What are two questions that these statements answer and why are they important? _____

2. READ Luke 10:37-42.

On Sunday we looked at the contrast between 2 sisters who both knew Jesus and loved him, yet only one of them understood what is most important in their relationship with Jesus. Read and discuss the following:

What was Matha doing that is important in the Christian life? (For comparison read Rom. 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10) _____

Read John 11:20-27. What does this tell us about the spiritual heart and life of Martha? _____

In spite of the same strong faith that both Martha and Mary possessed, and the fact that Martha lived out her faith by serving, what was the wrong way Martha was doing the right thing? _____

What was Mary doing that Jesus commended her for and why is it important in the Christian life? _____

What are some benefits of being in the presence of God and listening to Him through His Word? See Psalm 119:105; Psalm 110:9-11, Psalm 37:31. _____

What else does sitting at the feet of Jesus imply? _____

What are some reasons that this must be a priority in our lives? See John 15:5; 7-8; 14:23; 16:23-24; James 4:2-3. _____

Discuss these 2 important spiritual lessons Martha and Mary remind us of ... What is the good from Martha’s example? What is the best from Mary’s example?

1. Serving the Lord is good unless it conflicts with being with the Lord which is best.
2. Don’t fall to the temptation of giving in to the good when you need and can have the best.

Wrapping Up

A person's experience of God's essential presence is not determined by God, but by us. Like Martha and Mary, we all have a choice in what we experience of God and how close we are to God at any given moment. All of us here know what God would want us to choose – He would want us to choose the “one thing” as he told Martha. Jesus is the “one thing”. Each day we choose how close we are to Him at any given moment. Tomorrow begins a new day. Let's choose to spend time with Jesus, fellowshiping with Him through His Word and prayer. His essential presence will give us everything we need.

Close in Prayer

Let's pray together asking God to help us pursue this one life purpose of pursuing the presence of God both personally and corporately.