

Peace for the Holiday Pace

Keys to Undistracted Devotion

November 28 & 29, 2009

Luke 10.38-42

3 Keys to Undistracted Devotion

1. Welcome Jesus into Your Home (your heart)

Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

2. Deal with Distractions

But Martha was distracted with all her preparations

Signs of being Driven to Distraction

(The 'Busy but Not Blessed' Syndrome)

- We lose touch with _____

*She came to Him and asked,
"Lord, don't you care...?"*

- We begin to throw _____

*... my sister has left me to do
all the serving alone...*

- We develop _____

Tell her to help me!

- We lose the battle with _____

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered,
"you are worried and upset about
many things"*

3. Set the Priority: The Lord of the work over the work of the Lord

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

but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

***Sitting without serving - Pointless
Serving without sitting - Powerless
Serving after sitting - Fruitfulness***

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Are you more like Mary or Martha? Why?

2. In Jesus' day, there was a strong and positive cultural expectation of hospitality in the home. Martha's preparations were in keeping with these cultural expectations. Yet, Jesus seems to challenge Martha to set aside cultural expectations for the sake of undistracted devotion. Do you every feel a 'tug of war' between cultural (or family) expectations and a life of undistracted devotion? What are some of these expectations? Which side normally prevails in the 'tug of war'? Is there a need for change?

3. Discuss the Signs of being Driven to Distraction on side one (reverse) of this outline. Which one(s) do you struggle with?

4. In what practical ways can we become more like Mary, who was commended by Jesus?

5. Discuss this quote from Charles Hummel's booklet, "*The Tyranny of the Urgent*"... "Tension and frustration mount when we are...trying to cram too many... activities into a given period... A critical spirit develops and we begin to judge and condemn others for what they do or don't do."

6. Philippians 4:6 says... "*Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything. And the peace of God will guard you hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*" Discuss the correlation between worry and prayerlessness. Are there issues you are worrying about that you need to pray about? (Note: do you need prayer with your growth group today? Is so, ask for prayer.)

7. Who will win the Civil War game between the Ducks and the Beavers? Note: As you discuss this, remember the importance of maintaining church unity!