



Important Over Urgent- Session 5

Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 26:6-13; John 11:17-27

3/24/19

MAIN POINT

Sometimes our attention to our many tasks can distract us from listening to the teaching of Jesus. Living light means that we are going to focus on the main things in our lives that help us to grow in Christ.

INTRODUCTION

How many hours a week do you spend working? How often are you distracted by work when you really should be spending time with family or friends? What are some of the major distractions of our culture?

What are examples of things in your life that would be important? Urgent? What is the difference between them? Similarities?

What are some tasks at church that could keep people too distracted to listen and/or worship? Do you think we do a good job as a church of realizing when people are distracted by responsibilities?

UNDERSTANDING

Luke 10:38-39 and Matthew 26:6-13.

What are some positive things we can glean about Mary and Martha from these verses? What do we learn from Jesus' response to how he views their actions?

How do we learn to choose the important? What are ways that we create artificial deadlines? What helps us to move from urgency to importance?

Do you think the "also" in verse 39 implies that Martha also sat at Jesus' feet? Do you think she was trying to listen but couldn't because of "her many tasks"?

Can you name a time in your life when you began to do something for the right reasons, but soon got overwhelmed? How quickly did you lose your joy? How often do we grow to dislike a good thing because of the work it takes to do it?

Luke 10:40.

Martha sought in this account to be about entertainment instead of being hospitable. Hospitality is something that we see that serves others where entertaining is about how others perceive ourselves. How can we lean towards being entertainment in our lives versus being hospitable?

What sort of attitude do you have when you are too busy? Is it possible to be so involved in the service of the church and the service of others that you cease to be helpful? Can we serve to our own detriment?

Why do you think Martha asked Jesus if He cared? Who is Martha upset with, Jesus or Mary? Why didn't Martha ask Mary to help directly?

How can volunteering to do a good thing, like being entertaining to Jesus, cause us to sin? How hard is it to tell when we are over-worked or just over-worried?

LUKE 10:41-42.

What was "the right choice" that Mary made? Why did Jesus defend Mary?

What were the "many things" Martha might have been "worried and upset about"? How could she have handled the situation better? What was Martha's error?

Read John 11:17-27. What are some ways that you see Mary and Martha's role in this account?

APPLICATION

How can we be careful not to over-work or over-worry ourselves in the service of the church?

How can we guard ourselves against judging how much work others are doing? How can we keep "volunteering" from feeling like "unavoidable obligation"?

Have you been sitting and listening to Jesus by the preaching of God's Word? Is it time for you to make "Mary's choice," and sit and listen?

Evaluate your motives for serving. What are some things that we try to look perfect in our lives over simply being present with the Lord? What needs to change some things in how we serve and live that can help us to remain focused on the main motives?

Evaluate your busyness. Is it a barrier to how you relate to others? What needs to change? Who can help you hold you accountable for taking the right steps?