Kingdom Priorities Handout

Luke 10:38-42 NLT

**38**As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. **39**Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. **40**But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

**41**But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! **42**There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

It has been said that many things keep us from the great by distracting us by the merely good.

The fact is that this text presents a simple message, but in my experience, it is the simplest messages that we tend to disregard most easily. How should we understand this text to help us live and abide in Christ in our time?

We should ask this question of the time spent watching TV, on Facebook, playing Video games, reading novels, and we could supply legions of other activities that we all have let rob us of God’s best for us.

Another way we might apply this simple teaching in our time is to remember to balance our service to God. Some people have serving proclivities and gifts that literally compel them to volunteer and overwork for the church. Other people have contemplative and introverted tendencies and gifts that cause them to be inward focused and accidentally under-serving. Mary’s choice is good not because she isn’t helping, but because she is seeking Christ. Martha’s choice is not evil or wrong, it is just unbalanced.

Jesus calls us. First, he calls us to follow. We need always to listen and learn and obey as disciples which means we are a people who are being trained by Jesus. Then Jesus calls us to serve. But after serving, Jesus calls us to get away and refresh with him in times of prayer and reflection. Yet, always, Jesus calls us to love. And the love to which Jesus calls us is a prioritized love. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus comes first, others come next, and our preferences come last.