

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 only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

Sit And Listen

That does not come naturally to me. **What does not come naturally to you?** I am not usually one to sit and listen. **Why is that?** I am always on the go. I am often quite busy. It is often said by some, "I have places to go, things to do and people to see." That statement describes me. It is also true that I have a long and virtually never ending "to do" list. **Will you be happy with all your accomplished "to do" lists when you reach the end of your life. Are your never ending, "to do" lists, leading you to wisely spend your life on what will have been of lasting and eternal value? Are you doing what seems urgent now at the expense of what will ultimately be much more important? Who are you in the passage that you are now considering? Are you like Martha who is frantically busy, consumed by activity, and attending to mundane details that will in the light of all eternity, amount to nothing? Or are you like Mary, who would not miss an opportunity to draw near to me. She has set aside busyness and hurry to sit and listen to me. She wants to receive my instruction. She wants to follow my guidance. She wants to live in an intimate relationship with me. She is listening attentively to me. She wants to go where I guide her. She wants to do what I ask of her. At the end of her life, she will be grateful and thankful that she walked through life with me. She will have born fruit for my kingdom and brought glory to my name because she remained in me and I in her. She will live with no regrets regarding how she has spent her life. She will have invested her life in knowing me so she can go and do my will. Hasn't she chosen what is far better? What about you? What choice will you make? Will you also choose what is better? Will you set aside a daily time to sit and listen, to be in my presence, to meet with me in prayer?** Yes Lord, that is the choice I have and will continue to make. Only you have made me able to sit and listen to you. Only you are helping me to do what has not and does not come naturally to me. I have been and will continue to meet you with daily. It will be my joy to listen attentively to you. I will meet with you in prayer. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I know if I don't set aside a daily time and place to meet with you in prayer, it will never happen. Life is busy. Life is distracting and deceptive. The busyness of life will never encourage me to sit and listen to you. Here I am now, speak to me, I'm listening. Amen

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen What Is Better*

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

NIV

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Has Discovered It*

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed them into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 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." But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

NLT

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen The Better Part*

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

NRSV

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen The Good Portion*

Now while they were on their way, it occurred that Jesus entered a certain village, and a woman named Martha received and welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was listening to His teaching. But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, is it nothing to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me [to lend a hand and do her part along with me]! But the Lord replied to her by saying, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; There is need of only one or but a few things. Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her.

AMP

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen The Good Part*

Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

NASB

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen The Good Portion*

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

ESV

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen That Good Part*

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

NKJV

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Chosen It*

As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand." The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."

MSG

Luke 10:38-42

The Prayer Filled Life*Has Discovered It*

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem they came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed them into her home. Her sister Mary sat on the floor, listening to Jesus as he talked. But Martha was the jittery type and was worrying over the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Sir, 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." But the Lord said to her, "Martha, dear friend, you are so upset over all these details! There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it—and I won't take it away from her!"

TLB

Luke 10:38-42

Guidance*Chosen The Better Thing*

While Jesus and his followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house. Martha had a sister named Mary, who was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. But Martha was busy with all the work to be done. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her."

NCV

Luke 10:38-42

Chosen What Is Better

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Prayer Filled Life – Luke 10:38-42

In Context: Read Luke 10

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: (What is God speaking to your heart?)

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 only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

Considering The Words: (What words speak to your heart?)

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 only one thing is needed. | Mary has chosen | what is better, | and | it will not be | taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: (What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I know if I don't set aside a daily time and place to meet with you in prayer, it will never happen. Life is busy. Life is distracting and deceptive. The busyness of life will never encourage me to sit and listen to you. Here I am now, speak to me, I'm listening. Amen

What It Means: (What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is setting aside time to meet with the Lord critical to developing an intimate relationship with Him?

What typically distracts you from spending time sitting at the Lord's feet to listen to Him?

How will being caught up in the busyness of the world distract you from choosing what is far better?

Why would it be a very good idea to reevaluate your priorities to see if they will amount to what is of eternal value?

When are you setting aside a daily time and place to sit at the Lord's feet and meet with Him in prayer?

How are you developing an intimate relationship with the Lord as meet with Him in prayer?

What spiritual disciplines are helping you to sit and listen to the Lord and develop an intimate relationship with Him?

Living It Out: (What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Choose what is better by setting aside a daily time and place to meet in prayer with the Lord.

Seeing It Happen: (What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that you will come to know the Lord intimately as you sit and listen to Him.

Get Ready To Share: (What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has guided your life as you have listened to Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you sit and listen to the Lord so you can develop an intimate relationship with Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will sit and listen to you so I can develop an intimate relationship with you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what do you want to say to me today, as I come and sit and listen to you?
