

Imagine US

a missional vitality series

BEING PRESENT

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39** She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Luke 10:38-42

40 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!”

Luke 10:38-42

41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:38-42

**The guise of busyness is a
god-like deception that fools
people into thinking that they
are omnipotent, omniscient
and omnipresent**

**Our preoccupation must be
with the presence of God
rather than with the busyness
of self**

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

James 1:19-20

1) BE QUICK TO LISTEN

(vs. 38-39)

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Luke 10:38-39

**We need a reordering of our
lives so that we return to
the primacy of receiving “from
Jesus” before doing “for
Jesus”**

**Man does not live on bread alone but
on every word that comes from the
mouth of the LORD.**

Deuteronomy 8:3 & Luke 4:4

**“For in him we live and move and
have our being.”**

Acts 17:28

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

John 11:32

³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.

John 12:3

13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.

Matthew 26:13

**The difference between
Martha and Mary was that
Martha revered Jesus as a
rabbi, but Mary believed that
Jesus was the Messiah**

2) BE SLOW TO SPEAK

(vs. 40)

40 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!”

Luke 10:40

**“On average, we work for just
forty seconds before we're
either interrupted or distracted...
It takes an average of twenty-
five minutes to resume working.”**

**“Hyperfocus: How to Manage Your Attention
in a World of Distraction”
(Chris Bailey)**

**45 For even the Son of Man did not
come to be served, but to serve.**

Mark 10:45

**Someway, somehow, we have
the tendency to make things
less about Jesus and more
about us**

**Martha was not only
disconnected from Jesus, but
she was also disconnected
from Mary**

3) BE SLOW TO ANGER

(vs. 41-42)

41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:41-42

There are seven instances in the Bible when God repeats someone's first name:

Abraham, Abraham (Genesis 22)

Jacob, Jacob (Genesis 46)

Moses, Moses (Exodus 3)

Samuel, Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

Martha, Martha (Luke 10)

Simon, Simon (Luke 22)

Saul, Saul (Acts 9)

**The teachable moment for
Martha is that less is more**

My son [and my daughter], do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, ¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son [and daughter] he delights in.

Proverbs 3:11-12

The appearance of anger is a sign that we have not spent enough time with Jesus

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

**One of the greatest threats to
our witness in this world is
Christian absence instead of
Christian presence**

**God has promised to us the
availability and tangibility of
His presence**

**To be truly present in the
moment is to become aware
of the presence of Jesus**

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