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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 72

Sitting at His Feet

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

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."

Now, at first glance, it would appear that this specific passage of Scripture has a sort of dual message. First, Martha was wrongfully upset with her sister for sitting at the feet of Jesus while she herself served. Now, as a disclaimer here, Jesus was not rebuking Martha simply because she was serving Him, but rather because she was upset that her sister Mary was not serving but was sitting at His feet.

The second aspect here is that Jesus said that what Mary chose was good and that Martha was anxious and troubled about many things. The point in this was that Mary was where she needed to be and Martha was serving out of duty rather than out of a place of rest.

Now, to the main point of all of this, I would like to add an illustration from my own life. Shortly after my release from prison, I was extremely hungry to serve God. I was turning over stones to find a church to gather with and fellowship with so to speak and to no avail. As a matter of fact, I did not have a church to go to for about three months directly after I was released from prison. My heart was broken as I longed for the ability to serve the Lord. Yet, at the same time, the Lord had simply not opened a door for me to have a church to go to at that time. Don't get me wrong, I visited a church here and there but nothing ever panned out for me in my quest for finding the place God wanted me to be at in that particular time

in my life. I prayed constantly that the Lord would bring me to where I needed to be but to no avail.

During this time, I would on many occasions talk over the phone with a chaplain that I had while in prison. I am truly thankful to God for him. I say this because, on one of these phone conversations, I expressed my anxiety about wanting to serve the Lord and how I only desired to find a place to fellowship and share the gifts that God had given me. What he said to me still sticks in my heart to this day. All he said was, "*right now, all you need to focus on is growing intimate with the Lord.*" Now, he never referenced this Scripture that I am talking about today, but you get the picture. This beloved chaplain was more concerned with my heart and obedience to Jesus rather than just getting me into a church. Do not get me wrong, the church is very important, but we need to be more focused on where Jesus wants us to be at any given moment or time in our life. I can just picture a missionary wanting more than anything to get in the mission field and rightly so. But because their zeal overruled the leading of the Spirit they moved too quickly and missed the best that God had for them. In this illustration maybe God had a place specifically laid out for this missionary and since the missionary jumped the gun ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time rather than the right place at the right time by waiting on Jesus at His feet for His instruction and teaching. So it was in my case, I was so zealous to get busy that if I did not heed the wisdom from this chaplain I would have ended up in the wrong place and in my own strength. Praise God for the leading of His Spirit in the lives of the faithful.

Notice earlier how I mentioned that on one of these phone conversations that I said I expressed my anxiety about wanting to serve the Lord. There should not be this type of anxiety when we are referring to service to the Lord. We should be submissive to the leading of the Holy Spirit which will induce a life filled with gratitude and peace as we obey rather than try to serve out of a place of indebtedness or duty. We are called to serve out of a place of desire and rest in Christ Jesus.

Today, as I write this, the Lord is bringing this memory and Scripture back to me because the temptation to fall into this mindset is barreling down on me. What I mean is that in this season, the Lord has been calling me to an extraordinary amount of work and the temptation to not sit at the feet of Jesus is becoming. On top of this, I can feel it in my flesh the desire to pull away from the feet of Jesus so that I can finish the work He has called me to do. What shall I do then? Well, it really is simple, don't leave the feet of Jesus. One can honestly only stay at the feet of Jesus by the command of the King. Hear what I am saying. In our own strength, we can do nothing, so then, when I feel this way and the burden of this temptation is barreling down on me, I simply pray with faith that Jesus will keep me from being distracted from His Presence. You know Jesus really wants our

hearts not just what we can do for Him.

I wonder if you can feel what I am saying here? Maybe you have also felt that deep need to return to the feet of Jesus. I know I have. We all share the same struggles and are tempted in like manner as each other. Therefore, we aim to edify and build each other up in this way. The sum of this is really simple. Jesus does not need us but wants us. In that respect, we should not be anxiously toiling repeatedly in our own strength but pause and rest at His feet. When you feel the fire of anxiety burning you up, stop, drop, and pray. Hallelujah!

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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