



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Distraction vs. Devotion!

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 (Jesus visits Mary and Martha)

Distraction: anything that diverts a person's attention, devotion, or focus away from God and toward lesser, worldly, or anxious and material concerns and busyness. The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:14); The "Cares of This Life" (Luke 21:34); and Divided Devotion (1 Corinthians 7:35). Social media, phone notifications, TV, gaming, internet browsing, multitasking, interruptions, stress, anxiety, and noise, etc.

Devotion: strong love, loyalty, dedication, or steadfast commitment to a person, cause or belief. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42); Samuel mother Hannah (1 Samuel 1:28); and David (Psalm 145:1).

In our devotion we must be willing to be: **(1)** humble; **(2)** spiritually receptive; **(3)** desire a deeper relationship with Christ; **(4)** and stay steadfast to everlasting life.

Mary and Martha both loved Jesus. On this occasion they were both serving Him. But Martha thought Mary's style of serving was inferior to hers. **Are you so busy doing things for Jesus that you're not spending any time with Him?** Don't let your service become self-serving. Jesus did not blame Martha for being concerned about serving her guest. He was only asking her to set priorities. It is possible for service to Christ to degenerate into mere busywork that is no longer full of devotion to God.

Spiritual nourishment and hearing the Word of God should take precedence over worldly tasks and anxieties. Jesus does not condemn service, but highlights that sitting at His feet is the better, "*good part*" that cannot be taken away. **True service should flow from devotion, not just busyness.** Mary sitting at Jesus' feet showed that she portrayed humility, faith, submission, love, discipleship and spiritually receptiveness. **In other words, she had an open, responsive heart that actively wanted to hear and listen to what Jesus had to say.** Because of her pursuit for the Word of God it showed an intense spiritual maturity which consisted of an inner transformation and a devoted relationship with Jesus.

Spiritually Receptive: refers to the openness and readiness of an individual to receive, understand, and respond to spiritual truths and divine guidance: Matthew 13:23; Luke 10:38-39; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 17:11; and 1 Thessalonians 2:13. **Deeper Life:** is a pursuit of intense spiritual maturity which consists of an inner transformation and a devoted relationship with Jesus: Psalm 1:2; Daniel 2:22; Luke 6:48; Luke 10:39; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Ephesians 3:18-19; and Philippians 4:8. **Christ's Words:** **Gracious** (Luke 4:22); **Spiritual** (John 6:63); **Incomparable** (John 7:46); **Words of Judgment** (John 12:48); **Divine** (John 14:24); **Imperishable** (Mark 13:31); **Mighty** (Luke 4:32); and **Life-Giving** (John 6:67-68).

Mary had made a wise choice to sit at Jesus' feet and because of it she received praise from Christ stating that was the good part and it will always abide with her. **Wise Choice:** means aligning personal decisions with divine will, character-building, and long-term, life-giving outcomes rather than temporary, selfish pleasure: Joshua 24:15; Solomon (1 Kings 3:9); The Psalmist (Psalm 119:30); Ruth 1:16; and Moses (Hebrews 11:25). **Commendation:** means praise: John the Baptist (Luke 7:28); A Poor Widow (Luke 21:3); The Syrophenician Woman (Matthew 15:24-28); Mary of Bethany (Mark 14:6, 8); and A Centurion (Luke 7:6-9). **Enduring those things that Abide** means remaining in a state of continuous, active connection with God, relying on His strength rather than striving through personal effort: Divine Supplies (1 Kings 19:8); Spiritual Food (John 6:27); Spiritual Works (1 Corinthians 3:14); The Three Graces (1 Corinthians 13:13); The Unseen Things (2 Corinthians 4:18); and The Spiritual Kingdom (Hebrews 12:27).

In the Word of God, Jesus' let us know that Mary that sat at His feet and heard His Word has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. In our devotion we must be willing to be: **(1)** humble; **(2)** spiritually receptive; **(3)** desire a deeper relationship with Christ; **(4)** and stay steadfast to everlasting life.

I pray that these words will encourage You to continue to be devoted to God and let go of distractions!