



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – March 17, 2024

Sermon Series: Via
Sermon Title: Trivial Pursuit
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/Concept: In life - and especially in the life of following Jesus - it is often a struggle to "keep the main thing the main thing"! Eugene Petersen says, "The Puzzle is why so many people live so badly. Not so wickedly, but so inanely. Not so cruelly, but so stupidly. ...People, aimless and bored, amuse themselves with trivia and trash. Neither the adventure of goodness nor the pursuit of righteousness gets headlines." Mary and Martha exemplify this, and the real challenge to choose a single-minded path alongside Jesus.

Icebreaker: (if with a small group) What is your home like shortly before guests arrive?

Reflections on the sermon: What did you learn from the sermon that will help you avoid distractions and focus on the Lord?

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 (New International Version)

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. 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!"

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."

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. Where were Jesus and the disciples 'on the way' towards as this passage begins? What village did they stop at? How did Martha show hospitality? (verse 38)
2. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with Mary and Martha? (See, for example, John 11:5, 17-19 and John 12:1-2)
3. What did Mary do when Jesus arrived? What was Martha's reaction to Mary's actions? What do you imagine was going through Martha's heart and mind?
4. In verse 40, what did Martha say to Jesus and what did she ask Jesus to do? What do you imagine her tone was?
5. What was Jesus' response to Martha in verses 41 and 42? How would you describe the tone of Jesus' response?
6. What was the one thing that was needed? How did Mary exemplify this?
7. What did Jesus mean when he said that Mary's choice would not be taken away from her?
8. How does this passage show that Jesus cared more for the sisters' attitudes than their actions?

Going deeper:

1. If you had been Martha in this situation, how would you have reacted to your sister's choice?
2. In what ways do you identify with Mary in your relationship with Jesus?
3. In what ways do you resemble the hurried, frantic behavior of Martha in your relationship with the Lord?
4. Does this passage suggest that it is wrong to take care of details and preparations? How would you summarize what Jesus is trying to teach from this passage?
5. What types of earthly responsibilities, distractions and attitudes pull you away from Jesus today? How can you be more of a Mary and welcome Christ in your life? What insights did you gain from this passage that will help you focus on the 'one thing?'
6. How were Mary's actions countercultural for a woman in those times? What does Mary's behavior teach us about pursuing Jesus today?

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord-

It is easy to become consumed with the responsibilities of life. No matter what stage of life we are in, there are things to be done. Thank you for this reminder to keep our focus on you as the 'one necessary thing' and to trust that you will help us with everything else. Please draw us closer and keep us from being distracted by anything that takes our focus off you.

In Jesus name, AMEN