

CREATING A BALANCED LIFE

(LUKE 10:38-42)

I. Introduction

A. We all have very hectic lives with job, school, family, and church. Matter of fact, life can be very overwhelming at times. It appears the more we do, the less we accomplish and Satan is laughing at us. God's desire is that we have a balanced life in pursuing our purpose.

Illustration: One weekend traveling out of town we had to stop at a local auto repair place because the automobile was shaking uncontrollably. What caused the problem? It was out of balance.

Illustration: When we don't have a balanced life it is like running on a treadmill. We are running hard but going nowhere.

II. The Call (vv. 38,39)

A. Luke states that one day Jesus and probably his disciples came to the house of Martha and Mary.

1. The place is Bethany which is just outside of Jerusalem and Martha and Mary are the sisters of Lazarus. (John 11:1-12:8)

2. The visit was probably unexpected. But God does not need to make any appointments, He can just show up.

Example: There was a time when the preacher could visit his members unexpectedly.

2. Since Jesus was an itinerant preacher or evangelist he depended on the hospitality of others.

B. Martha received and welcomed her guests.

1. This was an opportunity for Martha to exercise her gift of hospitality.

2. Hospitality means "the love of strangers". As Believers we are commanded to show hospitality to one another. (Romans 12:13)

C. When Jesus calls, it is an opportunity to exercise the gifts and talents we are blessed with.

1. All Believers are given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given to edify the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:7)

2. Even our natural talents such as singing or craftsmanship should be used to edify the Body of Christ.

III. Do You Care? (v. 40)

A. As the events of the day proceed Martha is busy making sure that the guests' needs are met.

1. But there are 13 unexpected guests so this time the task becomes overwhelming.

2. Her younger sister does not help with the ministry of hospitality but sits at Jesus' feet and listens to Him teach.

B. Martha becomes frustrated with the situation. No doubt she has tried to get Mary's assistance but to no avail. So Martha goes to Jesus with a question that she believes, will align Jesus with her way of thinking.

1. First we must understand that it is alright to ask God questions. What parent discourages his/her child from asking questions?

2. But don't think we can win God to our side of a dispute.

C. Does God really care? Yes, He cares about the mundane things of our everyday life. (Matthew 6:25-34)

Satan Uses Three D's To Get Our Life Out Of Balance

- **Distraction** – In the Greek the word means “to be over occupied about a thing, to be drawn away”. Martha was too concerned about service and missed the opportunity to be with Jesus. Jesus desires our presence and not just our performance.
- **Discouragement** – Distraction leads to discouragement because weariness creeps in as life over powers us. Discouragement breaks down our perspectives and causes us to say and do things we never intended to do.
- **Doubt** – Discouragement leads to doubting God. Satan has always used doubt to get humanity to question God’s love. It was Satan that said, “Did God really say...”

IV. The Cure (vv. 41,42)

- A. Jesus did not say that serving was unimportant but that Martha was overly occupied about many things.
 - 1. God never asked us to be faithful over every thing but to be faithful over a few things.
- B. Jesus was teaching Martha a lesson in priorities. We must stay focused on the most important things.
 - 1. In time management they teach you to complete the most important things first. It really does not matter if you did not complete everything on the to-do list.
 - 2. Remember it is alright to say “no” at church. We have limited time, talents and treasures so we must use them wisely.
- C. The Bible teaches the power of priorities:
 - ❖ Priority for Worship - Genesis 4:3-8
 - ❖ Priority for Wealth and Wellbeing - Matthew 6:33
 - ❖ Priority for Obedience – Mark 12:28-31
- D. It is up to us to prioritize the following in our life and according to how well we prioritize them will create balance:
 - ❖ Family
 - ❖ Friends
 - ❖ Job
 - ❖ God
 - ❖ Church
 - ❖ Neighbors
 - ❖ Finances