

DISTRACTIONS

Introduction:

Let's say you get home from school, grab a snack and sit down to do your homework. What are some things that might distract you from studying?

- music on radio
- siblings
- text messages
- your favorite TV show
- parents want you to do chores
- the weather
- thinking about something else

There could be all kinds of things.

One of the greatest dangers to your faith & the faith of your friends are faith distractions. This is when the urgent distracts you from the important. What's the difference between the urgent and the important?

Urgent – something you feel needs to be done now but may not be that significant.

(ex: If I misplace my mechanical pencil, it will drive me nuts until I find it. It is urgent to me but my pencil, in the bigger scheme of things, is not that important.

What are some examples of urgent things but not that important?

-my favorite TV show is on now

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Read Luke 10:38-42.

- I. Two sisters – Martha & Mary
 - A. Martha is a task-oriented person.
What is she doing in this passage? (vs 40)
She is making a snack (preparations).
 - B. Mary is a people oriented person.
What is she doing in this passage? (vs 39)
(sitting & listening to Jesus).
 - C. Do you have any friends that are different than you & this creates tension?
Martha & Mary are definitely different.
- II. The Conflict
 - A. Why is Martha upset? (She is doing all the work by herself.)
 - B. What does Martha do? She goes to Jesus and insinuates that:
 1. He doesn't care.
 2. That He needs to tell her to help her.
 - C. Does this request sound reasonable to you? If you find yourself doing all the work by yourself, don't you want to get others to help you?
- III. Jesus' Response (vs 41)

- A. He tells Martha “she is worried & upset about many things.”
 What do you think she is worried & upset about? Why shouldn't she be
 worried or upset? What does she think is going to happen if she
 doesn't have the food ready at a certain time?
- B. Notice vs 40 says Martha is “distracted by all the preparations”.
 1. What is she distracted from that she should be focusing on?
 2. Is there anything the matter with preparing food? No.
 3. But notice she has allowed something good to distract her from
 what is better. She has allowed the urgent to distract her
 from what is most important.
- C. In vs 42, Jesus tells Martha “Only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen
 what is better.”
 1. This implies priorities.
 2. This implies not just looking to what is good but what is best. Phil.
 1:9-10
 3. Do you realize Jesus is saying that even serving Jesus can be a
 distraction?
 4. So what is the better thing that Mary has chosen? To spend time
 with Jesus.
 5. Our doing for Jesus can distract us from being with Jesus. We first
 must be connected to God before we serve God.
- D. Read Luke 10:1. Jesus sends out the disciples in pairs to do ministry, and
 then they come back to Him and report what they did.
 Read Luke 10:17-20.
 Jesus says “Don't rejoice in the ministry that you did, but rejoice that your
 names are written in heaven.”
 What is Jesus' point?
 Our being (who we are in Christ) is most important. It is more important
 than our doing. And our doing has to flow out of our being.
- E. The great command is first to love God – spend time in relationship with
 Him. This has to be our first priority.

Conclusion:

What is it that distracts you from spending time with Jesus?

What is it that keeps you from loving God?

God doesn't need you to do anything for Him – He's God. He wants to have a love
 relationship with you first. God doesn't love you because of what you do. He loves you
 because He's chosen to & wants to spend time with you.

Why are we talking about this as a ministry team? The only reason we serve is
 because we are in love with God.

Any ministry we do in our own power will not amount to anything for God's kingdom.
 But anything we do that is empowered by the love of God will change the world.

Are you distracted by good things & forgetting the most important thing?

-We need to make Jesus the most important thing & make it a priority to spend time with
 Him.

-If we don't, we won't see more as we desire.

Are you doing 15/15 challenge?

Application:

Deal with your distractions:

1. Name it.
2. Change it by replacing it.
If it is a good thing, change the order.

Do the most important thing first, and then deal with the urgent (if it is still urgent).