

Fixing our eyes on Jesus...again

We are continually reminded that we must keep our eyes on Jesus alone. The world is so full of distractions these days that it is easy to be pulled in many directions at the same time.

The age of high tech communications in many ways is a great blessing. It is a great advantage for missionaries to be able to email their prayer partners and their headquarters and get instant responses from the other side of the world. There is also a downside to this rapid dissemination of information. The same networks that deliver good news deliver bad news. No other generation has had instant access to the news of every major tragedy and disaster happening around the world. Not many of us can handle all that information well. We go into "overload".

Most of us are now accessible by phone, mail, and computer to countless organizations who want our help. Who can handle the dozens of needs that we may hear about daily? What does your newspaper, your mailbox, your television, and your email bring to you each day? Too much to handle, we suspect. A large chunk of time is needed just to organize the information.

With so many things screaming for our attention, all of which may seem equally important, we may react in one of two ways. Either we occupy ourselves with the things that scream the loudest at us, or we become paralyzed with anxiety, shutting down on the inside to all that we hear, and do little or nothing worthwhile. But there is a third and better way. Take everything to the Lord and let Him sort it out!

Mary had the sense to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him. Martha was "distracted with all her preparations". We don't think this meant that Mary was lazy. She just had the sense to fix her attention on Jesus when He was in her house. Martha was so concerned about doing everything right that she almost missed this opportunity. Jesus had to correct her: "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted about many things. But few things are necessary, really only one, and Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

No doubt Mary returned to her normal way of working hard just like her sister. But she probably worked with a clearer focus, more joy, and an inward stillness from having been with Jesus.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus will not make us inactive or withdrawn from the battle of life. Giving Him our attention will allow us to receive a fresh infusion of His grace and a clear instruction of His wisdom. Then our time and energy will count for the best. This may be the greatest challenge of a believer's life, to find that "good part" that Mary found -- at the feet of Jesus.

It is possible and necessary to live at the feet of Jesus. It is possible to sort out the conflicting voices of our soul and hear the

consistent quiet voice of God. There is a price to pay for it, however. Mary had to resist the intimidation of her sister. Martha even tried to intimidate Jesus into asking Mary to help her! It is necessary to turn away from voices that seem "right", but which you cannot recognize as the voice of Jesus. His voice is consistent and His nature is unchanging. Only by "letting the peace of Christ rule in your heart" can you find the most important things God has for you. Anything else will pull you away from His highest plan.

I'm glad that God is not pouring over a thousand emails in heaven, too distracted to know what to do. I'm glad He's not in heaven looking at CNN and wondering how to respond to the latest trouble. He is way ahead of the news, working in secret, working with eternal purpose, weaving scarlet threads of redemption in the darkest places of this world...especially where His people are asking Him to do it!

"Lord, help us to sort out the priorities of our lives in Your presence, at your feet, in Your word. May our lives be invested in Your highest purpose. May our days count toward the destiny that you have foreordained for us in Jesus Christ."