

Transformation Journal

Daily Devotion for the week of July 18, 2010

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“Having Mary’s heart in the world of Martha”. Most of us are preoccupied with things to do, assignments to complete, datelines to meet.... It is much like the condition Martha is in (luke 19:38-42). She was so much into her busyness that she even asked Jesus to tell Mary to get busy too! Yet, Jesus replied Martha: “Mary has chosen the right portion which shall not be taken away from her.” Mary sat at the feet of the master. She listened to Jesus. In other words, she made time for Jesus, building personal relationship with Jesus, creating space in her spiritual realm for the most needed thing in the life of every person.

Monday

Scripture: **Read** Luke 10:38-42

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. How would you describe the difference between Martha and Mary as you meet them in this story?
 - a. A normal person vs. a lazy bum
 - b. A normal person vs. an over-bearing workaholic who needs to relax
 - c. A person who values responsibility vs. one who values relationships
 - d. A person who needs to be needed vs. one who needs to be served.
2. If you were Martha, how would you have responded to Jesus’ words?
 - a. Thought to myself: “He doesn’t have to live with my sister”
 - b. Left the room and pouted
 - c. Accepted the correction, sat down with Mary and forgot about supper or...
3. What was Jesus saying to Martha?
 - a. She should be more like Mary.
 - b. She had her priorities messed up.
 - c. People are more important than housework.
 - d. “Sitting at Jesus’ feet” is more important than anything else.
4. If Jesus dropped in on you, what might he point out that distracts you from the really important things in life like spending time with him?

Prayer Focus: Food for the soul is not a waste of time. Yearn to make time to be with Jesus, resting in him, and experience the peace from him.

Tuesday

For Mary, hospitality means giving attention to the guest himself than to the needs he might have. Mary's choice to sit at Jesus' feet rather than to prepare for meals and other stuff is the most appropriate response at the time. Our last glimpse of Mary shows her to have become a woman of thoughtfulness and worshipful action. The passage today shows that Mary was at Jesus' feet. She washed the feet with perfume and wiping them with her hair. Jesus responded and said: "her act of worship would be told everywhere".

Read Matthew 26:6-13

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. If you had a year's wages to blow on one special gift, what would you buy and for whom?
2. What is significant about the setting for this woman's gift to Jesus? What context in Jesus life (v12) justifies this woman's act? Why are the disciples indignant?
3. What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples about priorities?
4. What "beautiful thing" could you do this week for Jesus ?
5. The woman gave lavishly for Jesus, Judas wanted see what he could get from Jesus. In what ways are you like this woman? Like Judas?

Prayer Focus: Lord, help me to discern my priorities and keep them.

Wednesday

Scripture: Read Matthew 6: 5-14

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. Did you grow up in an openly "religious home"? Or was religion a private matter?

2. How does the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrisy affect their prayer? How does their reward contrast with that of those who pray sincerely?
3. In Jesus model prayer (vv 9-13) what three concerns related to God did he pray about first? What personal concerns follow?
4. What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer?
5. If our Father knows what we need before we ask, why pray?

Prayer Focus: Prayer is an important aspect of discipleship. Spending time with God, and let him tends to his beloved, in order to live well.

Thursday

What stood in your way, what is the “Goliath” along your path preventing you to give priority to God? The readings below mentioned a young boy, David, met the 9 feet tall giant – Goliath. However, David succeeded in bringing down the giant.

Scripture: **Read** 1 Sam 17: 12-50

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. How would you feel playing football alone against the New York Giant?
2. How do you feel when someone casts doubt on your ability to do something?
3. Why were the Israelites helpless against Goliath?
 - they were chicken
 - they did not have a plan
 - they were intimidated by his size
 - they had forgotten about God’s promise to fight their battles
4. What is the hardest part of the battle with the giant you are facing now? How does it affect you – positively and/or negatively?

Prayer Focus: Lord, please help me with my fear, apprehension. May my faith raises above my doubts . Help me to trust you and believe in myself.

Friday Scripture text today speaks of a Canaanite woman went to Jesus to ask Him to help curing her sick daughter. The woman did not expect to encounter any trouble, just like others who needed help from Jesus. But, to the Canaanite woman’ surprise, she was received with cold shoulder from Jesus and he made remark like: “ It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs”.

However, the Canaanite woman responded Jesus with an incredible answer: “You are absolutely right, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs as they fall from their master’s table.”

Instead of feeling offended, Jesus was thrilled. For his strange behavior was designed to raise the Canaanite woman to the highest level of faith. At the end of the conversation he was able to say to her, “How wonderful is your faith! You can have anything you want!” To get to that place, we, too, may have to experience rebuff, silence and apparent rejection.

Scripture: **Read** Matthew 15:21-28

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. Was there a time you felt God did not care about you? When? What took place? Anything thing about you changed after that ?
2. What was Jesus’ intention in acting and saying strange things to the Canaanite woman?
3. What possible reasons when prayers to God were not answer? How best to keep on trusting God in negative environment? In what ways your Small Group is able to be of help to you?

Prayer focus: Though life is not all rosy, keeps trusting God’s guidance. He does not go wrong.

Saturday and Sunday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.