



Prayer Focus

November 28 – December 4, 2022

Don't Lose Your Focus!

“Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken from her” (Luke 10:42 NKJV).

As we have officially entered the holiday season, the Holy Spirit is reminding us to be like Mary of Bethany and not like her sister, Martha. This short but profound episode appears in Luke 10:38–42.

When Jesus entered the sisters' village, Martha welcomed Him into her house. The Greek word translated welcome, *hupodechomai*, is used only twice in the Gospels, in Luke 10:38 and Luke 19:6, where the tax-collector Zacchaeus receives Jesus as his guest. Like both of these early disciples, we are to welcome the Lord's presence into our situations; but we must not lose sight of the main thing once He does enter in.

Martha no doubt wanted to prepare the very best meal for the Lord, but at some point she lost focus of Him and her preparations became the center of her attention. We are told that she became “distracted by much serving” (v. 40). The Greek word *perispao*, meaning to draw away, to be over-occupied, or too busy, is found only in this verse in the entire New Testament. Thus, Martha is the only person recorded to have behaved in this manner in Jesus's presence. No wonder He gently chides her!

Mary, on the other hand, receives Jesus's commendation. She sat at His feet and listened to His words, which for Him is the “good part.”

Many things vie for our attention at this time of year. These things may not be bad in themselves, and some may even be necessary; but the Lord says only ONE THING is needed. This one thing is our focus or attention. If we give the Lord what He wants, we will receive His commendation, as Mary did.

Please take a few minutes to listen to "[Jesus Be the Center](#)," sung by David Funk and the Bethel team. Let the words of this song be our prayer throughout this season. It truly is all about Him!

Sharon Arpana Edwards