

## "Time Well Spent"

Pentecost 9

1)

Luke 10:38-42

2)

August 11, 2019

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What do you consider things in your life that would be time wasters? I think you know what I'm talking about. The things you do to waste time and take up time. Maybe it's when you're getting ready to go somewhere, or you're waiting for someone else. If you're like many today you take a look at your cell phone. You play a game or you follow up on an email or text . You try and get something done. If you check out the lists of top time "wasters", there are many on there that you and I probably do. There were even emotions like complaining that I wouldn't have thought of. There are all sorts of things that we do to waste time. We waste time. But what would we consider to be time well spent? What would you consider to be a good use of your time .... Many young couples make it a priority when first starting out in marriage to spend time as a family and time with their children. And that is a good and valuable and important thing to do. The young parents want to be good role models for the children. This is one example of time well spent. The other aspect of time that you'll commonly hear people exclaim – is that there is not enough time in the day. There is not enough time in the day to get the things accomplished that we want to get done.

This morning I want to share God's word with you where there were two sisters who disagreed on where to spend time. One considered it to be time well spent just meant time getting the house ready for guests. The other sister considered it time well spent to spend time with said guest. Let's consider what **Time Well Spent** means as we hear from our Savior.

Imagine for a moment that you're getting ready to have guests over but it's not just a normal circumstance. The best example I could think of would be Thanksgiving dinner. Imagine that you're having everyone over for the Thanksgiving meal. Everyone takes part in getting ready for Thanksgiving. Everyone takes in a part in getting things done. The meal needs to be

prepared. As a loving husband I'm going to want to help in every capacity possible. There's just some things that I won't do. I'm not going to make the Turkey, but I suppose I could deep fry it if my wife asked me to. So I will help another ways. I'll bring the tables and chairs up from the basement. Even the kids take part in that process. They go to great lengths to make place cards for where everyone would sit for the meal. They want to make sure that grandma and grandpa or the cousins would sit next to them . We spend so much time getting ready for a meal, get ready for a Thanksgiving meal, getting ready for company and family to come over. But now take that one step further and imagine that it's Jesus coming over to your house? Would you go to the great lengths like Martha did? Would you ready the house? Would you make sure there's a tub of water to wash his feet as was the custom of the day? Would you go to great lengths to make sure that everything is ready? I imagine we'd all do what Martha did to get ready for Jesus. Would you say this about your sister?

v 40 – **But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”**

Sounds like a sisterly thing to do doesn't it? The thing that we want to think about is the contrast between the 2 sisters. Martha was so concerned about the preparations that she was distracted. And Mary concerned herself with what the Lord had to say.

Does that happen in in our lives – that we get distracted like Martha? Distracted by life and all that goes with it?

Spiritually, it's easy to get distracted reading and hearing God's Word. If we can make a list of all the things that would be distracting and life, wouldn't it be long? And if we just took a look back at that list, we have to say that there's not as much value in those things as we originally thought. I have my child's baseball game to attend or to help coach. I have to get to their sporting event that is so important to me that I just have to be there to watch it. This past week I received an email asking for volunteers to help coach my son's baseball team. And the tagline at the end of the email was do it for the kids.

All of these things are good things, like Martha getting the house ready. But we're told here that Mary chose the better thing. Or I think of all the things that we could be doing today – going up north or going on vacation – all the things we could be doing right now than being here at church and spending time in His Word. It's difficult for all of us when we comes to making those choices of time well spent. It's very easy to get distracted by all the outside noise and influence in the world around us. And then we look at all of those things in our lives that we try and fill ourselves up with hope from all the wrong sources. What I mean is this – There are times in life when we'd rather be in isolation or boredom than facing our problems. We'd rather go to seclusion or we'd rather be bored than hearing the encouragement from Jesus and his word. We believe the lie that it's easier to avoid problems and conflict than dealing with it. Is there something going on in your life right now that makes you worried or afraid or something that is driving you to isolation or boredom? We need to hear the word of Jesus spoken to us daily. When you need to hear the encouragement that Jesus has indeed forgiven all your sins. For all those times that we run to isolation and boredom rather than trusting God and his word – we need to trust that Jesus has indeed forgiven us. For all the times that we've had misplaced priorities and we have replaced hearing God and his word as number one in our life and of the 1 thing needful. We repent of those sins and trust that Jesus has indeed forgiven them all through his life death and resurrection. For Mary and Martha, the choice was between what was better. What Martha did wasn't necessarily bad. Getting the house ready for guests would be important. But was it the one thing she needed in life, was it the best way to spend her time?

**<sup>41</sup>“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”**

(Transition between what is essential and what is eternal.)  
Mary chose to sit at Jesus feet because she knew the words of Jesus would have give her identity, life, purpose and peace in life. Mary chose to focus on the things that last and the things that matter for eternity. If you watched the news at all this last week, it

would be very easy to be full of fear and worry. 1st we watched all the horrific events that took place in Dayton Ohio and El Paso Texas. If you didn't know, this hit close to home to me because I spent the first 2 years of my ministry in El Paso about 20 minutes away from the location of that shooting. Our hearts go out to all of those victims and the communities of those who now have to deal with this tragic loss of life.

And if you watched the stock market and heard of all the tariffs that are being placed on China – some that are affecting all the farmers some here in Wisconsin, you would have noticed that the stock market dropped 767 points. The 6th largest point drop in stock market history. If you placed all of your hope and all of your trust and all of your security in these types of things, what would it get you? Are these the things in life that God wants us to focus on? Would that be considered time well spent? If we watch the news and think of all the things that happen in the world around us come up there a lot of horrible things they take place. All of these things are out of our control. Jesus this morning wants us to choose the better things in life – to focus our time and attention. The things that last and give us eternal security.

When we turn to God and His Word he tells us how he is going to work everything out for our good. (Rom 8:28) He tells us how he will never leave us or forsake us. (Heb 13:4) He tells us to not be afraid b/c he is heaven preparing a place for us. (John 14:1-2) No fear. No worries. About what happens to us when we die. Because Jesus has taken away all of our sin; b/c Jesus has risen from the grave guaranteeing our eternity in heaven with him. Why is it important to come to church? Why is it important to have Bible study at home personally and as a family? Why is it important to come to a corporate Bible study with other believers? When you face difficulties in life and when you are blessed in life Jesus wants us to spend time with him in his word – to hear all of those wonderful promises both of where all our blessings come from – and for the only thing in life that is essential and gives us eternal hope.

When we stay connected to the word – when we bring our children up to be baptized – when we come forward to the Lord's

Supper – we receive God's blessings – the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. And that, dear friends, is time well spent. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

**<sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"**

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