

PUTTING JESUS AT THE CENTER

September 17, 2017 Luke 10:38-42 by Bob Branch
Building A Deeper Life In A Shallow World, part 2

What's the most important thing in life to you?

If someone looked at how you spend your time, energy and money, what would they say your life is orbiting around?

BIG IDEA: What does it mean to put Jesus at the center?

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." **Psalm 37:4** ESV

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." **Matthew 6:33**
(Mk. 10:29-30; Lk. 18:29-30)

Main Text: Luke 10:38-42

1. It will mean PRIORITIZING THE ONE over the many.

"this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." **John 17:3**
(also 17:26)

"we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." **1 John 5:20** ESV

2. It will mean LEAVING THE MANY to be with the One.

Mama Maggie—"Silence your body to listen to your words. Silence your tongue and listen to your thoughts. Silence your thoughts to listen to your heart beating. Silence your heart to listen to your spirit. Silence your spirit to listen to His Spirit. In silence, we leave the many to be with the One."

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him"

Psalm 37:7

"Be still, and know that I am God" **Psalm 46:10**

3. It will mean cultivating a QUIET, LISTENING EAR to drink in what Jesus says through his Word and Spirit.

Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." **John 14:9** (5:17)

"Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."
Mark 4:23 NLT

Brother Lawrence resolved to live in continual awareness of God's presence, to never to forget him from one moment to the next. In fact, he defined prayer as simply cultivating an awareness of the presence of God.

Initial Observations:

- We can open our homes (and our lives) to Jesus.
- There are always many things to do.
- We have a choice what we focus on.
- We can spend time on tasks and miss relationship.
- We can get distracted.
- We can get so busy that we will complain to the Lord for help (It isn't fair).
- Busyness and worry often go together (as do unhealthy comparisons).
- Busyness and worry are the outcome of our choices.
- Putting first things first is a choice.
- One thing is most important.
- To focus on the one thing, you must disengage from other things.
- To focus on the one thing, we must say "no" to secondary things.