

First Things First
Pt. 2: Setting Better Priorities
Luke 10:38-42

Introduction:

- A. Jesus rebuked Martha not because what she was doing was wrong, but because she was missing out on doing something better.
- B. Sometimes we are like Martha in that we get so focused on good things we neglect doing the better things.
- C. Let's look at some good priorities we are committed to and then see how there may be better priorities.

Knowing the names of your church family is good, but knowing your church family is better.

- A. In Christ, we are no longer strangers but citizens and members of the household of God (Eph. 2:19).
- B. Our time with God's people needs to extend beyond the worship times (Acts 2:46; Rom. 12:13).
- C. We need one another to help us in our living of the Christian life (Heb. 3:12-13).

Studying God's Word in Bible class is good, but studying God's Word in our homes is better.

- A. Many people fail to continue in their spiritual growth (Heb. 5:11-6:1).
- B. We need to be like the Bereans and examine the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11).
- C. We should have the same attitude as that of the Psalmist and love the Law of God (Psa. 119: 16, 18, 40, 47-48, 97, 113, 127, 159, 163, 167). Our children need to see our love of God's Word in our homes.

Praying for opportunities for evangelism is good, but sharing Jesus with our friends and neighbors is better.

- A. Preaching was what Jesus came to do. It was His purpose (Lk. 5:31-32; 19:10).
- B. Jesus calls us to go out and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).
- C. What are you willing to do to take the Gospel to those who need to hear it (I Cor. 9:16; Jer. 20:9)?

Knowing God's Word is good, but living out God's Word is better.

- A. There are many people who know a lot about the Bible, but knowing about the Bible isn't good enough.
- B. We are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (Jam. 1:22).
- C. This is an area where the Pharisees struggled (Matt. 23:1-3).

Conclusion:

- A. While Martha may have been focused on good things, Mary was focusing on what was most important.
- B. Are there some better priorities we should be setting?
- C. Let's not get so tied up with good priorities that we miss living out the better priorities in our lives.