

A Mighty Redwood/ Martha – “Me, Busy?” (Part 2)

Lesson 9

BEING TRUE TO YOUR PRIORITIES

11/15/15

Selecting the best nutrients for growth. *A mighty redwood thrives in rich, well-watered soil.*

Last week we looked at Martha’s circumstances and response in Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-3. Let’s review:

- 10:40 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!"
- 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,
- 42 but only **one thing** is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
- 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she **poured it on Jesus' feet** and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

God’s Perspective: *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: **2I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**" (Rev. 2:1-4)*

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- Perhaps Christians should be identified by **“Effective Habits of Highly Spiritual People”**.
- What are a few “good habits” you have as a spiritual man or woman?
 - What “good habits” do you want your children / grandchildren to establish to be effective for Christ?
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For Contemplation

- Suppose the Lord “called” you on the phone tonight and said He needed you to do something for Him that would take an entire day. *Look at your calendar right now.* How long would He have to wait until you were “free” to do what He needed?

Practical Help

Let’s say that Martha had a heart that truly loved the Lord and wanted to please Him (I’m sure she did). But perhaps she did not know how to sort out the “tyranny of the urgent” and to let go of the less important things. Can’t you just hear the Lord gently coaching her and not condemning her? Even though she apparently came across as angry with her sister, the Lord understood her emotions.

So, what could help Martha learn how to make better choices with her time? Do you have some “Martha” in you? I do! I sometimes justify my active choices as “godly perseverance”, and of course there is a place for that. But the truth is that there is far more in front of me that I *could* choose to do than will allow a godly balance in my life.

On the next page I’ve shared with you “Kinnoin’s Game Plan” that helps me sort this out. Here is how I’ve approached this:

1. Establish Categories of Priority.
My role as a husband is a higher priority than accomplishing a negotiable home project, so I place it in a higher priority (the top level).
2. Identify Specifics for Each Category
What aspects of this role or goal are essential for me to succeed or accomplish this thing?
3. Identify Typical Challenges and Opportunities. They are present with each specific element.
Here I list my honest view on the essence of what’s involved in addressing these elements.
4. Honest Assessment. Assess how I value each element, its value, and its urgency.
I begin with the “stress” level. I’ve found that when I can address this first I can better assess the value and urgency.

Kinnoin Game Plan – “Things on My Plate”

(Definition of Time / picosecond)

| <i>Category</i> | <i>Specifics</i> | <i>Challenges, Opportunities</i> | <i>Stress 1-10</i> | <i>Value 1-10</i> | <i>Urgent 1-10</i> |
|--|---|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Essential, Non-negotiable | Core Relationships | Daily time with God via reading His word and praying is the top non-negotiable! | | | |
| Husband | Time together Practical helps Relaxing together | Our obvious schedules; personal preferences None that really interfere Agreeing on how to do this. | 2 0 5 | 10 9 9 | 5 8 5 |
| Father, Grandfather | Physical connection Emotional connection Physical support | Everyone’s schedules Temperaments Conflict with my other responsibilities, priorities | 4 6 6 | 8 10 5 | 5 10 2 |
| Essential, Negotiable | Other Relationships | Apply godly discernment. | | | |
| Company President | People management Financial management Project management | Wide array of personalities, abilities. Many variable components, aspects to track. Probably just the number of elements involved. | | | |
| Church Leader | Lead, manage Ministry, service | Engendering effective response from others. Discipline, discouragement. | | | |
| SS Teacher | Mentoring, equipping Teaching One-on-one investment | Discovering how to motivate, encourage. Discipline of quality preparation time. Wisdom in discerning who to connect with. | | | |
| Discipler, Sharing Christ, Christian Encouragement | (New believer) (Contractor / seeker) (Non-believer) (General acquaintance) (Church planter) Office bld’g Bible Study | Keeping up with him, challenging him. Discernment, wisdom, timing, method. Prayer How to establish a discipleship connection. Sustaining him with encouragement Keep time commitment in balance. | | | |
| Negotiable | Variable with seasons of life. | Moderated by available time, cost, and personal priorities. | | | |
| Home Projects, maintenance | Tree maintenance Roof, gutters, etc. Irrigation maintenance | Determine how much to hire out, and how much time I’m willing to devote. My physical limitations with ladders, etc. Determine options, costs, timing. Willingness to hire or involve others. | | | |
| Physical Fitness | Leg/knee issues Nerve pain General conditioning Back pain | Discouragement. Must persevere. Wisdom with medical treatment. Stationary cycling; upper body exercises Abs, hams, stretching, ice. | | | |

Possible Biblical Progression

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| 1. Important | God’s priorities for you. | <i>Produces His best for you.</i> |
| 2. Unimportant | God allows you to choose, with no spiritual consequence either way | <i>Caution: Know His word in order to avoid missing what is important.</i> |
| 3. Wrong | Knowing what is right and choosing what is wrong. (James 4:17) | <i>God speaks through our conscientious through His Spirit.</i> |
| 4. Sin | Loss of reward (2 John 8) | <i>Not receiving a full measure of God’s peace, joy, or reward.</i> |

Discussion

How do you or should you apply the “Biblical Progression” to the three priority categories in the “Kinnoin Game Plan” table above?

Next Time: Paul – Listening to Your Heart / Sensitivity to Your Own Conscience