

Recap of 2/19/17 (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-37)

1. "Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make such slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their times of prayer, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word." Charles Haddon Spurgeon.
2. Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38-42) was commended by Jesus for making just such a choice to sit at His feet and listen to Him. A choice Jesus commended to Martha who was distracted by service. He was not exalting the life of contemplation (that of the Monk) over that of service but rather pointing out the need to hear Him first, to receive our "mission briefing," as it were, from Him before we go out into the battle. We listen so we can have the mind of Christ, so that we can see things from God's perspective.
3. We must listen to Jesus before we speak for Jesus. We must spend time in the Word before we spend time in the work. "Certainly we need to stop at times and ask, are we doing so much that we haven't time to sit at Christ's feet and learn?" (Larry Richards) "Make it your goal this week to take at least a few minutes each day to sit quietly in the presence of God. As you let God speak to you from His Word, you will see more clearly the things in life that matter most." **(365 Life Lessons from Bible People)**
4. The next time we see Mary in Scripture she is once again at Jesus' feet, in John 11:1-37, this time for Jesus' comfort at the death of her brother Lazarus. Jesus delays His coming to the aid of Mary and Martha thus letting Lazarus die. "Jesus permits this to happen because God will get glory in it. We need to learn that we are not the center of the universe—nor is our name, our church, our town. The headquarters of everything are in heaven, and everything is running for His glory. Nothing will come into our lives without His permission and if He permits it, it is going to be for His glory." (J. Vernon McGee)
5. We can learn through this encounter:
 - Don't second guess God's motives or purposes.
 - God's purposes are not always evident—they are beyond our understanding.
 - God's purposes are often different than ours...better than ours.
 - We consider God's delays, silences, inactivity as evidence He doesn't love us or is unconcerned for us. but that's is a premature judgment
 - God is accomplishing more than we can imagine—God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we pray them so that He may do something greater.