

At the Home of Mary and Martha

Sometimes we get all caught up in the things we need to do on any given day. Some people make lists of things to do each day while others go about the day taking things as they come up. During the time after Hurricane Michael Jenks Avenue Church of Christ provided over \$600,000 in free food along with cleaning supplies and basic items for daily life. A woman received the things she needed from the huge warehouse of items on hand and while the youth group children were loading her car, one asked if she could pray with the woman. I watched as the woman uncomfortably looked downward and then into the young girl's eyes. She said rather ashamedly, "I haven't prayed in over 40 years, but yes, I would like for you to pray for me now." Wow! What a statement! The young lady, who was a sophomore in high school prayed for this woman and her present situation. She also prayed for God's blessing upon her.

Later the woman spoke to me and told me that we were doing a fine job with the young people. She commented that she just went about her business each day and never gave a thought to God or even thought about praying. She also said that she just took each day one at a time and let come what may come. I shared with her that God is always there and patiently waiting for each of us to recognize that He is the answer and in Him we find hope.

A few days later she returned for more needed items. She saw me and came to tell me that she had been praying every day since the first visit to our church. I realized that she was not a list maker, but rather that she went about her day without any specific plan in mind. She took each day one at a time with no plan in mind. This meant she did not set time aside to pray.

Mary and Martha had a great home and they invited the Lord in to rest and eat. While Martha hurried around and was attending to everyone to serve as a wonderful hostess, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to him talk about the kingdom of heaven. Martha complained to Jesus about Mary leaving her to do all the work. Jesus corrected Martha by telling her that Mary had the kingdom of heaven as a priority while Martha had the duties of being a hostess as a priority.

Like the lady who received the supplies, Martha had the day to day things as her priorities and not God. Yes, it is important to do the day to day things, but it is more important to have our eyes upon Jesus as our number one priority.

Scripture: ³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 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,

Questions?

1. Who were the two women Jesus visited?
2. Are all people list makers?
3. Do some people simply go through life day by day with no plan?

4. Do some people fail to pray each day?
5. Does God have a plan for you?

Next Steps:

Make a daily planner. It can be on notebook paper, in a small planner book or on a post it note. Put PRAY TO GOD first on the list for the day.