

When God Gets Personal with My Schedule

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Announcement: Life Journals

We're encouraging every single person to get a Life Journal. It is a notebook that contains a daily bible reading schedule along with sections for message notes and things God is teaching you. This is a tool to help you make your spiritual growth personal. You'll have a record of what God says to you. Life Journals cost just \$5.00 and will be currently available.

Summary: Life-Changing Lessons

1. It is easy for your Spiritual Gifts to get in the way of your Spiritual identity.
2. Accountability is painful, but necessary.
3. Priorities should be predetermined and followed through with discipline.
4. Salvation is found at the feet of Jesus and not in the kitchen.

Scripture

Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But 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, ⁴²but only one thing is needed.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Opening Question

Today we're going to do a get-to-know-you opening question. Share your name and one word that describes your life this week. (If you are having trouble, here are some suggestions: happy, fulfilled, busy, tired, stressed, etc.)

Digging for Truth

1. Rick started the discussion talking about our lives and how much we take on. Name some of the "basketballs" you are currently spinning?

Are there any responsibilities that you should have never picked up?

How do these things keep us out of balance in life?

2. Read Luke 10:38-42. What two words is used to describe Martha?
3. What did Mary pick? Why was it better? What does this tell us about our lives?

The thing that suffers most is our relationship with God, and we often crowd that out of our lives.

4. I'm going to read Philippians 3:12-14. Listen and choose one phrase that will help you most in making the needed life adjustments.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

5. Life Changing Lesson #1: **It is easy for your spiritual gifts to get in the way of your spiritual identity.**

What do you think Martha's spiritual gifts are? How did they get in the way?

What are your spiritual gifts and how can they get in the way of the most important thing?

6. Lesson #2 says **Accountability is painful, but necessary.**

Do you have a spiritual growth partner who helps you maintain balance in life? Tell what this looks like in your life?

How does inviting someone to hold you accountable help you?

7. Lesson #3 states "**Priorities should be predetermined and followed through with discipline.**"

As a group, let's list some priorities and determine the order. Also discuss things we can do to be more disciplined. Are there ways we can help one another? Are we willing to have someone ask us personal questions about?

8. We've all heard the challenge of letting the good things get in the way of the best things. In your past, what are some good things that you did that maybe put your life out of balance. Why did you take on that responsibility?

In light of this, how do we decide what to take on in the future?

9. Rick talked about desire and passion as opposed to having a check list spirituality. Jesus didn't say, "If you feel like it then give, serve, etc." He said, "Do it."

Could it be that we have problems because we don't have enough love for God? How can we have more love, more desire, more passion?

10. Lesson #4 states "**Salvation is found at the feet of Jesus and not in the kitchen.**"

Eph. 2:8-10 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

What are some fruitful things you do while at the feet of Jesus? When do you do your "quite time" or "devotions"? Do you have a particular time and place? Do you have a reading plan for Scripture?

Share info on the Life Journals (see top of page one).

Closing Thought

What are we going to do this week to help us live life by the right priorities? (give time to discuss)

Rick suggested the following items:

- a. Admit that you are weak and need encouragement.
- b. Get some accountability.
- c. Use a journal. It will help you stay organized and focused.
- d. Memorize one verse of Scripture a week.
- e. Write down the victories.
- f. Share successes with others.