

# Personal DailyWalk

**October 9-15, 2017**

As a type A personality, Luke 10:38-42 used to kind of irritate me. In all my high mindedness, I would sympathize with Martha and look my nose down on Mary. I think it is our fast-paced world – we lift high the overachiever and wonder what is wrong with the person who takes the position of listener. As I have aged, I am finding greater value in that listener position, and now strive to become less distracted so that I may find joy in the moment. Trust me, I get it. I remember telling my mom I would rest when I'm dead. Working full time, being a single parent, on top of the demands (expectations) of this world, makes it nearly impossible to find a way to be more like Mary.



**Monday: Luke 10:38-42** Today, when it is quiet in your house, whether that is 5 am or 11 pm or anytime in-between, just sit in that quiet moment and listen. Listen to your house/apartment/room. Listen to the little noises your space makes. Find comfort in the moment, and thank God for the gifts he has given you in this moment of quiet.

**Tuesday: Ephesians 6:10-20** Ok, now go back and read these 10 verses again, but *slower*. Don't anticipate what you know is coming; just let it come into your being. Wouldn't it be nice to physically remind yourself every morning to put on the Armor of God? Maybe you can put these 10 verses on a little note and tape it to your bathroom mirror, then every morning while you are brushing your teeth, you can pray these verses.

**Wednesday: Leviticus 25:1-7** Uh oh! As a church administrator, it may not be wise for me to suggest reflecting on these verses. The office is going to get calls that this is a sabbatical year from many of you. Ok, you know I am just kidding, but do you ever think about that? Is there a time in your life that you need to take some time for complete rest? A time when you aren't 'doing'? Culturally, that goes against the grain, but spiritually, it is vital. As a church, we probably need to do a better job of respecting people when they say they need to step back from an area of ministry. Pray for God to strengthen the church to respect God's rhythm – a time for planting, a time for pruning, a time for harvesting, and a time for rest. Also, pray for God to lift up new leaders while other leaders are resting.

**Thursday: Luke 10:38-42** We are back with Mary again. Today, pick a meal that works for your family (if you are single, pick a meal with friends) – breakfast, lunch, or dinner, and just listen. Don't be distracted by phones, TVs, beeps, and buzzes from the outside world. Just be...together...listening to each other. Pray together about what is important to all of you.

**Friday: Ecclesiastes 10:10** What? This verse took some time to sink in for me. I am still not sure what it is saying, but one thought that keeps coming back to me is when I

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am tired or overwhelmed (dull), everything seems that much harder to get through. Way back in my college days, one semester I spent my Saturday mornings working with physically and mentally handicapped adults with recreation. Basically, we did gym things and swimming things. It was supposed to be fun for everyone, and help them experience things that they never were able to experience. I learned right off the bat that if I spent my Friday night doing Friday night college fun things and stayed up until the wee hours of the morning, I had no patience or compassion on Saturday morning to help another learn, grow, and have fun. To this day I take pride in what we were able to accomplish together, and learned a valuable lesson that is still true today.

**Saturday: Luke 10:38-42** One final time this week, let's reflect on Martha and Mary. If you are a parent with children, you are probably feeling pretty much like Martha right now and cannot even imagine that you could even glimpse a little bit of Mary in you right now. So today, while you are watching your children play soccer or maybe football or maybe a dance recital or just playing in the yard, take a position of listening and connect with others around you. If you are single and the day is too quiet and stretching out too long, leave the house and find where others are. Take a position of listening and connect with someone else – maybe the parent at the game who is overwhelmed, or maybe another single who is feeling their house is just a bit too quiet. Tonight before bed, pray about your experience of being in a position of listening.

**Sunday: Matthew 14:13-23** The strength of Jesus' compassion as he is being followed and pursued. Are there times in your life when you just want some peace and quiet, yet the world keeps knocking in on your quiet space? Ministry opportunities don't present themselves according to your timelines or schedules. Sometimes we just have to recognize the ministry in front of us, have the compassion necessary, and then get back to our quiet time. I don't know about you, but that is a pretty tall order in my book. Pray for Jesus to shore up your compassion bank so that you can be His hands, feet, and heart in this hurting and broken world.

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