

Jesus' example and to live life together; doing things together, laughing together, crying together, putting Jesus love into action caring for the needy together.

Jesus always invites people into community. Into life lived together were we are prepared to die for each other, just as Jesus has given his life for us. That's love, dying to being selfish, and rising to use all I have to benefit someone else.

This week don't let life slip through your fingers as you're busily getting ready. Find half an hour each day to stop and be with Jesus. Also make time to talk and play with those in your family. Mark it on your calendar, and tell a friend so that they can help you do it.

Then talk about what's on your heart to Jesus and open your heart to heat from him. Feast on his word, or songs, or art. Feast on Jesus, being focused on him when you're together. Do the same with your family and friends, turn off all distractions, even if the football is on, and focus on each other.

And then get together with some of Jesus disciples regularly to share life. At least a meal. Find a project to do together to give expression to Jesus' love. This week share life with at least two other disciples of Jesus. And do something together as a family that benefits someone else.

And don't forget the promise of Jesus; "Mary

has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42) Mary was loved by Jesus, and that won't ever be taken away from us. Martha was stressed and upset, I'd want that taken away from me.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for loving me. Help me this week to make time for you, to focus on you and to share life with you as part of your community of disciples. Amen.

18 July 2010
DISCIPLESHIP
Luke10:38-42



In the story of Mary and Martha what is Jesus saying to us? What is he wanting us to learn, to put into practice in our lives? Is it just a story about the trap of being too busy and missing what's most important? Is it a story about the liberation of women, with Jesus accepting a woman as one of his disciples? What is Jesus saying to you through this encounter?

It speaks to me of the importance of relationships. Jesus isn't giving a lecture on how to live a better life. I'm always glad that Jesus didn't come to town to give a lecture on god. Rather Jesus comes to love me, not to lecture me. Who likes being lectured? Who lives to be lectured? Not me.

Who likes having friends and sharing life with them? Who lives for

those they love? That's definitely Jesus.

In the story of Mary and Martha Jesus is speaking to me about the importance of relationships, and especially that relationship with him that Mary was living. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet. That's the posture of a disciple, of a special relationship. Mary is focused on Jesus, and is seeking to live her life with Jesus, growing to become more and more like him in all she does.

So what's the difference between being a disciple of someone and a student? For one thing there is no intimate bond between a student and a teacher. When I went to school I only saw my teachers in the classroom, and they never invited me over to their place for tea. Not

even to watch the footy. And I didn't invite them either. They had information that I needed to pass an exam, and that's about as deep as the relationship got.

How does that compare with Jesus and his disciples?

When Jesus called people to follow him they spent life together, bound in a relationship of great love and trust. There is a very strong bond between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus is willing to die for his disciples because he loves them more than life, and he has the great goal that they too will grow to become like him, being prepared to die for each other, out of love for each other. Jesus pours his life into his disciples, and they in turn trust him with their lives. Jesus isn't preparing them for some

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

exam, but for the ultimate test, life. Jesus pours himself into his disciples that they know how to live life like he does. And Jesus' goal is also that they become teachers of others, pouring their life into others so that they too know how to live life as Jesus does.

Jesus disciples aren't studying for an exam, but they are growing to maturity, so that they too will be able to disciple others, that they too will grow to maturity and will be able to disciple others pouring their lives into them that they know how to live life as Jesus does.

Living life with Jesus, not just hearing about him as another fact to be stored away, but as a person who has come to pour his life into them, that they might know his love for them and love as they are loved. That they might know his forgiveness and forgive as they are forgiven. That they might know how Jesus serves them

with his life, that they might serve as they are served.

Did you notice the pattern here? We love because we are loved. We forgive because we are forgiven. We serve because we are served. Jesus never asks his disciples to do something they haven't already experienced

Disciple v Student

from him. He loves them. He's forgiven them. He's served them with his life. Now they are equipped to do the same.

Jesus' goal in life is to create disciples. That's what he asked his disciples to do; "Go and make disciples – baptising them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19,20)

Jesus goal is to pour himself into us that we might grow to be more and more like him, as we share life together.

So Martha is there to remind me not to get distracted. It is so easy to get distracted by all the things that need to be done, but to miss out on the reason you're doing them. Martha got consumed with her work and in doing so neglected Jesus, the one all this preparation was for.

How easy it is to get distracted; working hard, making a living, but forgetting about living. I don't work to make money, but to show love to my family, to provide them with food, clothing, a home, giving them a sense that they are loved and precious. Then they'll live life as loved and precious people. Which is Jesus' pattern, because he knows that if I haven't experienced love I won't be able to give it. If I don't feel secure, I won't be able to risk caring for others, I'll be too busy

responding to my sense of insecurity. Jesus knows you can't give what you don't have. In our relationship with Jesus we have the greatest security, we have a love which not even death or hell can quench.

Martha reminds me how easy it is to get distracted. You could even come to a worship service and hear all about God's love for you in Jesus, but simply receive it as a good talk about God, and not go and live it.

When Jesus invited people to follow him as his disciples their lives changed. Often you'll read; 'They left everything and followed him'. They didn't hear a good talk, or read a good self-help book, they were encountered by a living breathing person who invited them to share his life, and to become like him.

So what is Jesus inviting you to follow and do this week?

The first is to make time for him. Life's busy, so if you don't make time, you won't have the time. Life isn't about being busy, it is about being loved and showing that same love to other. My business needs to be serving this goal, not taking over.

So what did Mary do?

1: Make Time 2: Focus on Jesus 3: Community

She stopped, and spent time with Jesus. Time to listen. Time to be in his presence. Time to experience Jesus, and to know of his love for her, time to know of his passion for life, to be open to Jesus and grow that relationship.

So Jesus is calling us to make time for him. Step one. Then focus on Jesus. Be open and attentive to Jesus, seeking to know him more intimately, growing your relationship with him. I

know that's what Jesus wants to do.

Step two, be focused on Jesus. Quietly meditate, or read the bible and reflect, reflect a picture of Jesus, invite the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to Jesus. Step two, be focused on Jesus.

Step three, don't live independent of other disciples, but live interdependent with other disciples, as together you share life with Jesus, as together you make time to be focused on Jesus. As together you go and put into practice all that Jesus has taught you. Step three is to live in the community of his disciples. To live in a community that reflects Jesus, being prepared to die for each other, as Jesus has given his life for us.

One way to grow this community is to share what Jesus revealed to you in your time with him. Another way to grow this community of disciples is to follow