

# Wednesday Night Bible Study

## October 28, 2020

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### Main Study

#### Luke 10:38

For women in the first century, education ended at age 10

- 3 levels of schooling
  - Bet Sefer (“House of the Book”) 5-10
    - Learn the Torah
    - After this, many--including all women--would go work for their family
  - Bet Talmud (“House of Learning”) 10-14
    - Learn the Oral Law
  - Bet Midrash (“House of Study”) 15+
    - Learn from a Rabbi that you seek out--and who would then give you an entrance exam

What made Jesus so counter-cultural in this regard is that Jesus called *women* disciples

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were Jesus’ closest friends outside the ministry

- John 12:1 -- one of the last places Jesus stops before He dies is with His best friends.

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Which do you identify more with?

- Martha
  - What you *do* for the Lord
- Mary
  - Sitting at Jesus' feet doing "nothing"

Silence and Solitude Practices:

- "Be still and know that I am God" exercise from last week
- Prayer of Silence
  - Sit and focus on a single word that centers you back on the presence of God.  
For example:
    - "Abba"
    - "Father"
    - "Only You"
  - Imagine you're sitting on the shore watching your thoughts pass by in boats.  
Let the boats go by and just watch them.
- St. Ignatius's Consolations and Desolations
  - Consolations bring you closer to the Lord.
  - Desolations bring you farther away.
  - Evaluate your day--identify things in your day that fit into each category

## Sermon Recap

The spouse of silence is solitude. (Stillness is related, too)

Spiritual Disciplines are the only practices that we have control over in our lives for growth.

God uses three major engines to grow His people:

- Circumstances

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- What's something you can look back on and think, "Oh, God was growing me through that!"?
  - People
    - Who can you look back on and remember a time they helped you grow?
    - The people who are the most obstinate may be the ones who grow you more than you realize
  - Spiritual Disciplines
    - Scripture engagement
    - Prayer
    - Worship
    - Fasting
    - Silence/Solitude
    - Giving

The reason you may not be bearing fruit is that the environment you're planted in is unproductive.

The greatest tool that Satan has in your life is the tool of distraction and busyness. You can combat these by actively practicing silence and solitude.

## **Rabbit Trails**

We're not supposed to be cisterns of truth and information; we're supposed to be channels of blessing

Difference between living water and non-living water

- Sea of Galilee feeds the Dead Sea.
- The Dead Sea is stagnant--it's not moving anywhere.
- The Jordan River feeds the Dead Sea from the Sea of Galilee--the Jordan River is called "Living Water"