

At the feet of Jesus

John 12:1-8

What takes us away from being present with Jesus?

-God is with us. Generally speaking God is everywhere at all times.

Omnipresent/ General revelation

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

Special Revelation speaks of God's presence in a special way.

Tripartite promise. "I will be your God, you will be my people, and I will make my dwelling among you." Tabernacle, temple, Jesus, Spirit.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

God is present with us. By which I do not mean in the same room, "present and accounted for." I mean present: giving time, energy, and attention.

Zoom has given us a great example of being present but not being present. I watch my kids be there on zoom, they are present and accounted for, but not being "present; giving their time, energy, attention and resources."

Kids with parents, dating relationships, married people in the room, feel me?

What keeps us from being present with God? **To sit at the feet of Jesus?**

Our story this morning is not the first time we see Mary at Jesus' feet and Martha serving...

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[38] Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. [40] But Martha was **distracted** with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." [41] But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are **anxious and troubled about many things**, [42] but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

What keeps us from being present? Distracted, anxious & troubled about many things.

Anyone else relate? (BE OPEN TO THE SPIRIT)

When can also do this as a church. The win is "get them serving" rather than showing them how to find and follow Jesus, to be present... **to sit at his feet.**

-Another parallel we see is Mary is criticized in both stories.

-Her sister get's on her in Luke 10, and Judas sharply criticizes her in John 12.

-When you prioritize being present at the feet of Jesus, you will be criticized. If not others, you will feel your own soul speak up. "This is a waste of time", "Get busy", "Don't waste your money on the worship of Jesus", basically your time energy, attention and resources can be used more effectively doing something else.

We would do well to head the words of Jesus, "you are **anxious and troubled about many things**, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." It's time for us to chose the good portion. **To prioritize being present with Jesus, to sit at his feet.**

Read vs. 1-2- Set the scene and give biblical context.

We read in Matthew and Marks account of this story, that they are at Simon the lepers house. Who is Simon the Leper? And is Lukes account of a women anointing Jesus the same as Matthew, Mark and John's? Most would agree Mat. And Marks account are the same account and compliment our story in John and Luke's account is a separate anointing based on location and details of the

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event. I conclude this after hours of going down this rabbit hole and reading speculation after speculation. Is Mary the sister of Martha actually Mary Magdalene? Is Simon the Pharisee also Simon the Leper? Does the Bible contradict itself??? No, it doesn't. And as much fun as it is to speculate that Mary, Martha's sister was a prodigal daughter, a women of the city, a prostitute and a sinner who found mercy in Jesus, anointed him in response to his mercy and then again before his burial, and because Jesus says "he who has been forgiven much, loves much", in Luke, that explains why Mary consistently finds herself at the feet of Jesus! BUT, where the Bible is ambiguous, be ambiguous!

This is what we know; they are celebrating the Lazarus', who just rose from the dead. Where we learned that things work out to the glory of God and our joy, that God not only knows what we are going through, but has empathy, he feels with us, and our call is align our narrative to the plot of God who not only brought you from death to life, but existence is for people to find and follow Jesus so they too can be brought from death to life through with in Christ!

At this celebration Mary finds herself once again, at the feet of Jesus.

Read vs. 3-5, Is this a fair criticism? A denarii is a days pay.

If you take the average median household income of Goleta, 98K, divide that into daily income and then multiply that by 300, this ointment was worth 80K.

Some of us might align with Judas on this one. If you heard someone sacrificially donated that much to a church so that Jesus could be worshipped, do you think it would go without criticism? What would you think?

The scriptures give way to the motives of Judas, **Read vs. 6**

He was a Thief, and he motivated by greed. And because he was motivated by greed, it distracted him from being able to see how awesome it is to worship with your time, energy, attention and resources.

His greed, maybe motivated by a **comfort** idol; become financially secure, or maybe a **power**, he wanted to be in control of his destiny. Maybe **Approval**, he wanted to be liked and thought financial resources could get him there. We don't know for sure, but what we do know, is it kept him from being present.

What keeps you from sitting at the feet of Jesus? Comfort, power, approval? (Be led by the spirit!)

Read vs 7-8.

Jesus is about to die. Even though we are only in Chapter 12, notice it says in vs. 1, "Six days before the passover". This is the Passover that he is betrayed by the thief, Judas. Where Jesus washes the disciples feet, breaks bread, and introduces the new covenant of his blood. But more about that is a minute...

Notice what Jesus does. In Luke, when she simply sat at the feet of Jesus and in our account in John, Jesus defends her actions. God defends you when you sit at his feet!!!

He even says in Mat and Marks account,

Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." Matthew 26:13

This exemplifies for us, being present in the presence of Jesus, to sit at his feet.

[1] As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. [2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? Psalm 42:1-2

[10] For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10

Can you say, there is no place I would rather be than to be present at the feet of Jesus, learning, following, and adoring, him?

Application- How can I be a person who is present? One who sits at the feet of Jesus? What needs to change so you can?

1. Examine. Start with some devotional time. What keeps distracting you?

What is the deeper heart issue, comfort, power, approval? All the above?

2. Repent, and Prioritize being present with Jesus. He is worthy!

1a. This means you might have to change things about your current lifestyle. *"The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World"* John Mark Comer

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1b. Repentance is not just direction, but mindset. Turn to a mindset of faith in that God is actually present with us. That he is good. And he is worthy! This sets the stage for the words of Jesus that says, [So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:33](#)

3. What might this look like?

You might have to give up some stuff and change some patterns.

-Lent is the season! Prayer and Fasting Fridays.

Communion.

In a week, Jesus will die. he will cry in a garden asking for another way, but submits to the will of the Father for the sake of his people. He will be beat, mocked, crucified and buried.

GOSPEL & COMMUNION