

MAY 31, 2020

TODAY - MARGIN: THE KEY TO BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Luke 10:38-42



The Big Idea: If Christians want to make space for their neighbors, it requires flexibility and shifted priorities. There are three changes needed -

- **Head Change:** To be able to prioritize what is most important in our busy schedules.
- **Heart Change:** To feel love for our neighbors that leads us to create margin for them.
- **Life Change:** To move past convenient relationships and pursue ones that require some sacrifice.
What change is God calling you to make?

1. The Important Questions

- a. What is your relationship with time? Do you naturally make time for those around you or do you find yourself “fitting” people in to an overpacked schedule?
- b. What kind of relationship do you have to “time-saving” technology like smartphones, apps, or calendars? How have you found these things to be time stealers instead of time givers?
- c. “The greatest enemy of spiritual life is hurry.” In what ways can rushing through life be detrimental to our spiritual growth?
- d. Our culture accepts the myth that says one day life will settle down and we can make time for others later. When have you allowed a busy schedule to interfere with the time you were supposed to spend with someone? How did it affect the relationship?
- e. Part of engaging with the neighborhood is being interruptible—the idea that even though we are busy, we’re able to stop and take a moment to shift our priorities. He asked us to consider this question - Are we living in a way that makes us available to others? How would you answer this question? What are some ways that being interruptible could help us slow down and reevaluate the way we spend our time?
- f. In what ways could you create margin for God to work in your schedule? What shifts could you make in your priorities?

2. The Important Insights for Mary and Martha

- a. Distractions are one of the main hurdles to be a good neighbor. When we are distracted, we can miss out on what God’s doing around us.
- b. Martha’s service was not the issue—it was the fact that **her service was distracting her from being fully engaged with Jesus**. When, if at all, have you allowed serving someone to distract you from truly being with them?
- c. Martha shows us that even when we are doing really good things, we can still miss out on the “main thing.” In what ways have you experienced missing out on something due to distractions?
- d. Being distracted can keep us from engaging with those around us, which was what happened with Martha. The story of Mary and Martha shows us the importance of shifting our priorities for the sake of the moment. Mary’s priority was to engage, while Martha prioritized making sure everything was done. What could it look like to prioritize time spent with the people in your neighborhood?
- e. These verses show us how our perspective about what is important can impact the way we spend our time. What are some ways you spend your free time? What could you do to spend some time engaging with the people in your neighborhood this week?

3. Now that you know this, what will you do? When?

LifeGroup Worksheet

MAY 31, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference **Luke 10:38-42**

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Read- *Luke 10:38-42 carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

3. Engage and Explore- *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

- a. Describe a busy time in your life. How did your schedule affect your relationships? What was most distracting? What helped you manage those distractions?
- b. Read: *One of the struggles we all have in common is time management. In a culture that praises being constantly on the go, there isn't much time left for us to rest, let alone worry about the family who lives next door. We've been learning about what it means to love our neighbors well. What would it take for you to not allow time to become an excuse or a barrier for you to engage with others?* Discuss.
- c. Read Luke 10:38-42 again. What is important to God in here? Why?
- d. Who do you relate to in this passage? Who would you like to be more like? What would it take?

4. Connect- *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. Loving our neighbors can seem inconvenient sometimes, especially when there are millions of things to do. But that's why re-assessing your priorities and having margin can help us be good neighbors.
- b. If you're asking whether all of these adjustments on behalf of people you barely know are worth it, just remember the Great Commandment. Loving and serving our neighbors is what Jesus has commanded us to do and he will give us the grace to do it.
- c. What are some ways you can start small this week? Inviting a neighbor on a jog around the block that was already on your schedule? Or maybe picking up some groceries for a neighbor since you are already going to the pharmacy?
- d. Brainstorm and share your ideas with the group about what you might be able to do.
 - What are some ways you can include the people around you into your schedule?
 - Commit to at least one thing.
 - What is the boldest thing God might be calling you to do? What can the group to help you?
 - Extra Credit: Listen to "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin. How do you relate to this?

5. Silent Meditation- *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God's truth to your life.*

6. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

7. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook*