

04262020 living in the Saturday ...the Land of the Living ...You and I live in what the bible calls the land of the living... this earth is our country...this little patch of the planet is our land of the living.

*PS 116: 7^{NIV} Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.^{PS 116:8} For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, (SALVATION)^{PS 116:9} that I may walk before the LORD in the **land of the living**. (SATURDAY)*

*PS 142:5 I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the **land of the living**."*

That is called Perspective!

A perspective is a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view. our perspective is the way you see something. for example: If you think that toys corrupt children's minds, then from your perspective a toy shop is an evil place. ... If we say someone "has good perspective," we mean she has a holistic outlook a healthy outlook on life.

- **Our perspectives influence everything** – our attitudes, our mindset, our viewpoint, our outlook, and our beliefs.

Here is a great perspective to hold on too...

NLT Psalm 100: *⁵ For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*

- **If you hold that perspective it will have great calming effect on your soul and in the midst of scary circumstances...**

A man stopped to watch a Little League baseball game. He asked one of the youngsters what the score was. "We're losing 18-0," was the answer.

"Well," said the man. "I must say you don't look discouraged."

"Discouraged?" the boy said, puzzled. "Why should we be discouraged? We haven't come to bat yet."

- **For it is only through perspective that we are motivated to persevere on the course were on, or to change course.**
- your perspective on a situation is what leads to anxiety or peace... a hopeless perspective leads to apathy,where there is apathy, ... there is no action... perspective leads us to feel inadequate or ok in our skin...
- Ever notice how your perspective of a relationship actually becomes the relationship...at least from your perspective...regardless of reality it is your reality...

- It is perspective that leads us to a place of balance in life or chaotic life...
- Do you realize that there is no growth, there is no development, and there is no learning ...without *first being willing to change your perspective....*
- (do the match book ...the match...all the way down the strike pad...if at any time it quits because its perspective is one of it will never light...guess what it will never light...but if its perspective is stay with it until it lights...guess what? it will light.)

Jesus does not only teach to give only knowledge ...he teaches to change lives... a person's life changes when their perspective on life changes. it is not the dispensing of knowledge that changes lives ...it is the application of knowledge that changes lives...

With that in mind...

...as I stated earlier ...*perspective is the absolute indispensable ingredient to knowledge and growth...and that is what God wants for our lives and that is what we need in our lives...*

- So God moves into our lives by divine design, to periodically disturb our equilibrium...that way he rocks our perspective which enables the development of our full potential...

Perspective is formed and reformed over time, through experiences, openness to learn, and through the gaining of new knowledge with the corresponding application.... a great personal example is what I wrote about my perspective on my Dad's passing ...a long time ago when I was 17. I thought my perspective was right on the money...until years of life later that the Holy Spirit enlighten me to what I did not know...and brought great healing to my heart. and here it is...I wrote this in Jan of 2017 with a few updates since then...I pray it bless you [Title: Twenty minutes with Dad](#)

There are many days where life just happens and we almost live on autopilot...and then there are a few days that change our life, either to solidify our perspectives or challenge them..... there are some days that change our life and we don't fully comprehend that change for a long time...this was one of those days, and it happened to be with my dad.

In the fall of 1972, at Thanksgiving dinner my families' life changed...we were eating our traditional turkey dinner with the beloved parsley stuffing, and the

usual people were present, my Mom, Dad , the eight kids, my Dad's parents, Aunt Mary and our Cousin Bill...

My grandfather had been ill with lung cancer for a while and unbeknownst to us at the time would die within six months...I dearly loved him but that is another story. Also unbeknownst to us at the time Dad was also suffering with pancreatic cancer. He had been suffering for over a year with intense stomach pains and drinking up to a bottle of Maalox a day in an attempt to gain relief from what he thought was a stomach ulcer. He was in continual, and often unbearable physical pain, yet would rarely miss work. He had been to the doctor a number of times and was told without much examination that he had a stomach ulcer...he was completely misdiagnosed.

But that night at dinner someone brought to my mom's attention I believe it was my Aunt that the whites of dad's eye were quite yellow. He went to the hospital the next day. Within a week or so he was under the knife and discovered to have pancreatic and stomach cancer and given a year to live. During the surgery they removed half of his stomach, the pancreas and possibly some other stuff and closed him up, telling us that he was riddled with cancer and there was nothing else they could do, that was the first and last time his disease would be discussed in our family.

I remember us hosting a group of ladies and sometimes a priest at our house weekly to pray the Rosary as a means of seeking God's power in curing this disease. I don't ever recall dad coming down to join in, but we kids were required to attend ...at least the older ones. It was often to me an exercise in patience and if possible I would figure out ways to ditch.

1973 was a grueling year for our family. Dad would die in December at the age of 49 leaving his wife of twenty years and eight children ranging in age from the oldest 18 to the youngest 5. I was second in the pecking order at 17 and the oldest boy.

During this year dad had a few weeks of feeling well enough to go to work but mostly is was a slow suffering filled march toward heaven.

One day in November mom told me to meet with dad in the living room to have a father son talk. She apparently knew the end was near, me not so much. I remember sitting on the sofa waiting for dad to slowly make his way down stairs and sit in the big chair next to the sofa on my left. Mom then made the announcement to us of the purpose of her calling this "meeting". Her desire was for dad to share his wisdom, thoughts and directives to me as the eldest son on

what I need to know going forward. It was awkward as my father and I had never previously talked of any such things. Even though I had spent the most time with him and had worked in his tire company since I was a little kid, and had driven to work and back home with him countless times, it was always mostly a silent trip. I knew my dad but I did not know him. I guessed that meeting was going to be the opportunity to learn about him and from him.

We sat within feet each other that morning in silence, which we were both familiar with...for what seemed like forever and made more uncomfortable by the knowledge that we were supposed to be talking about what my mom thought should be important father to son stuff. But in our relationship we rarely talked about any stuff let alone important stuff. Finally my dad said ...Well I guess I will go up and lay down. I sat there alone, for a while, it was one of the most profoundly sad days in my life. He died three weeks later.

My perspective of that day which I held on to over twenty years...was that Dad and my relationship really wasn't one. He had nothing to share with me, even an I love you was too much for him to say... It would have been better if my mom would have never set up this meeting, at least then I would not have this devastatingly anguished memory....and then God gave me an insight I did not possess...my Dad had not a philosophy of life to give me...as he had never spent the time to develop it.

Here is what I believe now as I look back with an additional 47 years of perspective. That 20 minutes of silence spoke volumes of wisdom to me...my dad did not speak because he did not know what to share...he had never had or made the time to develop a philosophy to pass down on what is important in life. He was only 49 years old, a product of the great depression, a World War II veteran, a man living in a generation whose roles for men and women were clearly defined. His was to work hard, with the goal of providing a better life for his family than he knew growing up. And his family was a large Catholic family, which also included the burden of financially supporting his parents...and then you know, to strive to accomplish the so called American dream. He worked hard at it...and was doing a good job. He was not prepared to have it cut short...he had not had the luxury of age to look back on his life ...he was too busy doing what he thought he was supposed to do.

His silence that day with me was not born out of our lack of relationship, which I for the longest time thought. He was silent because he did not know what life was about, what was important and what was not, what to seek after what to let

pass...He had bought into a program that failed him...work hard and you will enjoy the fruit of success, family, friends and retirement well some day. He worked hard six days a week, got married had kids, was a business man with integrity, practiced his religion, followed the program and got freaking cancer...he spent his life trying to live and achieve this ... and what the hell happened? He had no knowledge of smelling the Roses along the way nor developing individual relationships with his 8 kids. Not because he did not want too, he had no perspective on it at all.... He could not share with me any words of this is what you need to know and od in life holistically... because he did not know. What he thought he knew as the way, proved to be incomplete at best, and he had not yet discovered another path and in his case there would be no time to realign his priorities or goals.... I used to feel sorry for me, today I have great compassion for him...he was so sad and disillusioned himself.

What I did learn that day was this; if my dad cannot tell me what is important in life I will have to discover it myself, and I got lost for quite a few years....However that day started me asking the questions why are we here? What is life about anyway? Why do people do what they do? Who is God? What is my purpose on earth? I credit you Dad for leading me to ask the questions and discover some of the answers, which eventually led me to the path I still travel today.

Dad you gave to me in twenty minutes of silence a life altering perspective. That devastating time...instilled in me a hunger to look for the purpose of life....this search has produced much good in my life...

I so look forward to talking with you more about these things or even just sitting silently together, I am good either way. Thank you, your forever-grateful son.

- **I cannot tell you the number of times I have reflected on that day, and today at 64 years old I look forward with great joy and anticipation to having a redo of that conversation again in heaven with him.**
- **This time it will be quite different, as we will have so much more to talk about, As Our perspectives will be so much more true and clear...after all we will both be experiencing Heaven, seeing the Lord...**
- **getting a much better perspective on life in the land of the living and the living and in the heavenly Kingdom of God. I cant wait!**

- **The most valuable gift you have to offer yourself is a true perspective of Jesus...that perspective will effect everything in your life... your friendships, in your marriage, in your business, anywhere. That is the true bottom line. a Jesus perspective does not simply improve your spiritual balance sheet, it improves your life's balance sheet.**
- **Let me tell you one more story...**

Luke 24:13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.

- **They are talking about what they have witnessed in while in the land of the living with Jesus...These two disciples had been with Jesus , followed Jesus, they watched what he did, they watched how he did it...they listened to what he said...they were up close and personal with him...they were his friends...they knew Jesus... **and most importantly they watched Jesus live out his relationship with the father in the present in the land of the living...****
- **They had such great hope. All seemed to be going so well. Jesus confronted His opponents, and they had no answer for Him. He spoke powerfully, winning more to His side.**
- **But then, disaster struck! After the Passover meal, the most important night in their year, He was betrayed, arrested, humiliated, crucified and buried. And with Him, their hopes. All was lost. They, and we, seemed defeated.**
- **and now they are sharing their perspectives and the corresponding feelings with each other on all of it...**and their perspective is one of disillusionment, confusion and sadness.... their perspective was they thought they knew who Jesus was but now they realized they didn't. A devastating huge perspective change.****
- **Are Cleopas and his wife going back to life as they knew it, since following Jesus didn't work out so well?**
- **But in the midst of their most confusing, disappointing, fear-filled moments, Jesus was walking with them. They didn't recognize Him at first, but no matter. As is always the case, He did not abandon them. Jesus**

is walking with them not because they have it all figured out, but because they *didn't*.

- **Dialogue with Cleopas**

Luke 24:15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?” They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”

- **Cleopas is incredulous...he cannot believe Jesus is that clueless about current events**

¹⁹ “What things?” Jesus asked. “The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰ But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. **Now his wife speaks...**

²¹ We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. ²² “Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³ They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴ Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

- **Now Jesus is incredulous... he cannot believe Cleopas is that clueless about the resurrection....don't remember what I said over and over...and what the scriptures says**

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- **they were given a new perspective...that somehow they missed...probably around 12 noon**

²⁸ By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹ but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. ³⁰ As they sat down to eat, ^[d] he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

³² They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” ³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

- **When Cleopas and his wife return to Jerusalem, the 11 are there with their companions. Spouses? Friends? More disciples?all with differing perspectives...**

³⁵ Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. ³⁶ And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ³⁷ But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

- **their perspective a ghost..therefore their emotional state fear..**

³⁸ “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? ³⁹ Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” ⁴⁰ As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

- **immediately their perspective changed...which changed their emotional state...**

⁴¹ Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder.

- **their perspective changes and was accompanied by emotional change...**

Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he ate it as they watched.

- **gives them another perspective...he eats...He is fully Resurrected**

⁴⁴ Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be

fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations,^[f] beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ ⁴⁸ *You are witnesses of all these things.*

- **Now that you are a witness...you can speak differently about me...as ones who saw...your perspective is forever altered, your emotional state is balanced, which will alter your reactions and actions.**
- **you are a witness too...be a trust worthy witness....is your witness as strong in the troublesome times as it is in trouble free times?**

*PS 116: 7^{NIV} Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.^{PS 116:8} For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, (SALVATION)^{PS 116:9} that I may walk before the LORD in the *land of the living.* (SATURDAY)*

*PS 142:5 I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the *land of the living.*"*

- **For when we don't remember or don't understand, God may be poised to reveal a new insight about himself which will change our perspective....**
- **And God may come near as many times as needed, until we finally perceive correctly ...**
- **His word enlightens us, sometimes in the insight is in our minds in a flash we understand what we did not before, the aha moment...sometimes it is in the natural, sometimes God show us in the supernatural...and sometimes we just need to stand still, praise God, until we are given more knowledge or direction... end**

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

- We pray, Lord help me...Lord change me, Lord help me grow , help me be more like you. More giving and less selfish... loving and less judgmental..etc.

Then we get up from our prayer and go out and everything in life comes unglued...and we say Lord what happened?

What happened is that God is answering our prayer.....rocking our world shaking our currently held perspectives to bringing a change of perspective into our lives... ..and motivating us to listen truly listen and apply his solutions.....in short He is answering our prayer...

Now..

-
- **listen the time was different ...but the principle is still true..**
- **it is in the seeking of God we gain perspective...His word, prayer, experience, standing on what we already know...**

Jer 29: 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," says the LORD.

- **For when we don't remember or don't understand, God may be poised to reveal God's self to us as well. And God may come near as many times as needed, until we finally see ...His word enlightens us, sometimes in the insight is in our minds in a flash we understand what we did not before, the aha moment...sometimes it is in the natural, sometimes God show us in the supernatural...and sometimes we just need to stand still until we are given more knowledge or direction... end**
- ⁴⁹ "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."
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This should give us hope.

1 Cor 13:12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

end

I call it the tipping point... The Tipping Point is the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point, the ignition...the Aha moment...where the little changes that have been taking place lead to the big dramatic effect and effects. It is the name given to that one dramatic moment in when everything can change all at once....this is the Tipping Point Think earthquake...little pressures over time lead to the tipping point...think of disease epidemic...a small virus effecting someone leads to more and more contacts...to eventually an epidemic breaks out... to a match...sliding down the strike plate until ignition

. And these happen many times in ones life...

And what is that change...the major tipping point for a human being... it is the seat of who we are...how we perceive life...it is the place where we are broken...it is the place where we need to be healed... it is a little thing but controls our lives...

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When victory does not look like victory...

We can be heroes and victorious like the victorious heroes of faith were in their day...but remember at the time they did not know they were victorious Heroes

It is all about perspective

The most valuable gift you have to offer yourself is a true perspective of Jesus that perspective will effect everything in your life... your friendships, in your marriage, in your business, anywhere. That is the true bottom line. a Jesus perspective does not simply improve your spiritual balance sheet, it improves your life's balance sheet.

A New perspective on a walk changed these two guys lives...I call it the The Walk to Emmaus...

give context: If you turn to [Luke 24:18](#), you will find that one of the disciples was called Cleopas. Moreover, if you will then use any good concordance of the words occurring in the New Testament and look up the word "Cleopas," you will find a second mention of his name in another account of the Resurrection. The reference is [John 19:25](#). There we read, "Now there stood by the cross of [Jesus](#) his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene." These reasons seem to point to the wife of Cleopas being named Mary, a woman who (we are told elsewhere) was also the mother of James the less and Joses and who had been a follower of Jesus as well as a helper of Jesus and His immediate disciples ([Mark 15:40](#), 41: cf. [Mark 16:1](#) and [Luke 24:10](#)). They had such great hope. All seemed to be going so well. Jesus confronted His opponents, and they had no answer for Him. He spoke powerfully, winning more to His side.

But then, disaster struck! After the Passover meal, the most important night in their year, He was betrayed, arrested, humiliated, crucified and buried. And with Him, their hopes. All was lost. They, and we, seemed defeated.

But in the midst of their most confusing, disappointing, fear-filled moments, Jesus was walking with them. They didn't recognize Him at first, but no matter. As is always the case, He did not abandon them. Jesus is walking with them not because they have it all figured out, but because they *need* Him.

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However, in the Gospel of John, one of the women at the foot of the cross has a husband named "Clopas."

“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala” (John 19:25).

John 19:25 Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene.

It is the wife who breaks in—But more than all these things, today is the third day since these things happened; and more than all that, ‘certain women also of our company made us astonished ...; the women found not his body; the women came, saying, that they had seen a vision of angels which said he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even as the women had said: but him they saw not.’ **This is the woman’s side of the case.** It is an altogether different kind of evidence and excuse for their departure from Jerusalem and return to Emmaus.”

Since Mary, the wife of Clopas, is often grouped in the women who were at the foot of the cross and who went to the tomb, it appears that she may be the one speaking to Jesus in this passage. Considering these various facts, it is possible that Jesus appeared to a married couple and revealed himself to them in the “breaking of the bread.”

Does this matter?

Well, it can remind us that **Jesus wants to walk with married couples** and wants to be invited into their homes. While not speaking of the identity of the disciples, St. John Paul II comments briefly on this passage in his [Letter to Families](#).

The life that comes from Christ is a life for us. It is for you, dear husbands and wives, parents and families! Did Jesus not institute the Eucharist in a family-like setting during the Last Supper? When you meet for meals and are together in harmony, Christ is close to you. And he is Emmanuel, God with us, in an even greater way whenever you approach the table of the Eucharist. It can happen, as it did at Emmaus, that he is recognized only in “the breaking of the bread” (cf. Lk 24:35). It may well be that he is knocking at the door for a long time, waiting for it to be opened so that he can enter and eat with us (cf. Rev 3:20).

Pope Benedict XVI also reflects on this Scripture passage in a [general audience](#), encouraging us to invite Jesus to “stay with us” as these disciples did.

Dear friends, today too the Risen One enters our homes and our hearts, even when, at times, the doors are closed. He enters giving joy and peace, life and hope, gifts we need for our human and spiritual rebirth. Only he can roll away those stones from the tombs in which all too often people seal themselves off from their own feelings, their own relationships, their own behavior; stones that sanction death: division, enmity, resentment, envy, diffidence, indifference. Only he, the Living One, can give meaning to existence and enable those who are weary and sad, downhearted and drained of hope, to continue on their journey.

Marriage and family life are renewed with the presence of Jesus. We should make the disciples’ words our own, as Pope Benedict exhorts, “The unknown wayfarer ‘appeared to be going further’ (v. 28), but then he stayed with them because they asked him to so insistently: ‘Stay with us’ (v. 29). **We too must say insistently to the Lord, over and over again, ‘Stay with us.’**”

There are a number of things about the narrative of the women that can perplex when we seek to harmonize their actions across the four accounts. The sheer number of Marys sometimes adds to the confusion! And it even can be difficult to untangle the Greek grammar. For example, is [John 19:25](#) about three women or four?

A. “[1] his mother and [2] his mother’s sister, [3] Mary the wife of Clopas, and [4] Mary Magdalene”

{ or }

B. “[1] his mother and [2] his mother’s sister, [that is,] Mary the wife of Clopas, and [3] Mary Magdalene”

Under option A, the reference is likely to Salome (which would make the sons of Zebedee—James and John—the cousins of Jesus). However, option B is more likely, meaning that Mary the wife of Clopas is Mary’s sister (or sister-in-law) and thus Jesus’s aunt.

We don’t pretend to offer definitive solutions in our book, but I thought it might be helpful for those preaching or thinking through this material to highlight the relevant entries in our reference guide at the end of the book. There is more information on these important women than we have often recognized.

1. Joanna (wife of Chuza)

Among the first women to discover the empty tomb ([Luke 24:10](#)), she was the wife of Chuza, the household manager or steward of King Herod Antipas ([Luke 8:3](#)).

She was a follower of Jesus and helped to provide financially for Jesus’s ministry, along with Susanna and many others ([Luke 8:3](#)).

2. Mary Magdalene

A Galilean woman probably from the town of Magdala (on the west bank of the Sea of Galilee). Jesus delivered her from seven demons ([Luke 8:2](#); [Mark 16:9](#)).

She became a follower of Jesus ([Matt. 27:57](#)), a witness to the crucifixion and burial ([Matt. 27:61](#); [28:1](#); [Mark 15:40, 47](#); [John 19:25](#)), and was among the women who went to the tomb on Sunday ([Mark 16:1](#); [John 20:1](#)).

She was the first person to see Jesus alive ([Mark 16:9](#)) and told the other disciples ([Luke 24:10](#); [John 20:18](#)).

3. Mary (mother of Jesus, widow of Joseph of Nazareth)

She gave birth to Jesus, raised him, was present at his execution and burial, and witnessed his resurrection life.

From the cross Jesus entrusted his widowed mother to John’s care, and she went to live in his home ([John 19:25-27](#))—perhaps because Mary’s other sons were not yet believers ([John 7:5](#); see also [Matt. 13:57](#); [Mark 3:21, 31](#); [6:4](#)).

Mary’s other sons ([Matt. 13:55](#); [Mark 6:2-3](#); [Acts 1:14](#); [1 Cor. 9:4-5](#); [Gal. 1:19](#)) were named:

- James (author of the biblical book of James)
 - Joseph/Joses
 - Simon
 - Judas/Jude (author of the biblical book of Jude)
- She also had at least two daughters ([Mark 6:3](#)).

4. Mary (mother of James and Joses/Joseph)

A witness of Jesus’s crucifixion, burial, and resurrection appearances.

Her sons were named James the Younger (hence her husband must have been named James) and Joses/Joseph. See [Matt. 27:61; 27:56; Mark 15:40, 47](#).

The fact that two Marys in the story have sons with the same names (James and Joseph/Joses) shows the commonality of certain names in first-century Galilee. The name Mary, in particular, was exceedingly common in first-century Palestine, hence the need to distinguish between different Marys in the Gospels, whether by way of their hometown (Mary Magdalene) or in association with their husband (Mary of Clopas) or sons (Mary mother of James and Joses).

5. Mary (wife of Clopas)

A Galilean witness of Jesus's crucifixion, she may be identified as Jesus's "mother's sister" ([John 19:25](#))—though see discussion under Salome below.

According to Hegesippus, as quoted by the historian Eusebius, Clopas was the brother of Joseph of Nazareth (*Hist. Eccl.* 3.11; 3.32.6; 4.22.4). If so, Mary and Clopas were Jesus's aunt and uncle. Their son Simeon (Jesus's cousin) became a leader of the Jerusalem church succeeding James the brother of Jesus.

6. Salome (mother of James and John)

One of Jesus's female followers in Galilee, she witnessed the crucifixion and went to the tomb on Sunday ([Mark 15:40; 16:1](#)).

The parallel passage in [Matthew 27:56](#) makes it likely that she is the mother of the sons of Zebedee (i.e., James and John).

⁴⁹ "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

The Ascension

⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. ⁵³ And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

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The story of Mary and Martha is part of this section. The Gospel story begins with Jesus and about eighty of his male disciples heading to a certain village to take a needed break from their preaching, seeking temporary shelter and rest from their travel in what proved to be an unfriendly territory.

LK 10:38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations

that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

LK 10:41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her."

THE SCENE...

- Jesus had three friends who lived in Bethany. He would occasionally stay in their home when He was in Judea. Lazarus, Mary and Martha were brother and sisters.
- Bethany was located on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives on the road linking Jerusalem to Jericho.
- It was just over a mile and a half from Jerusalem, or about a half hour's walk. It would have been a very convenient place for Jesus and His fellow Galileans to stay when visiting Jerusalem for a feast day or on some other occasion.

The Players...**MARTHA**... Martha opened her home to him...

- Martha's invitation indicates her openness to spiritual things. She, too, longs to be a disciple, and wants to honor Jesus by inviting him to her home. Martha's name in Hebrew, incidentally, means "lady" or "mistress (of the house)."
- Jesus looks for an open home ... -- a person so hungry enough for spiritual food that he would offer hospitality –
- He didn't fund a block of hotel rooms for his crusade team in each town on the itinerary (though that may be a model suited better to other cultures). Rather he taught and waited for an invitation.
- she welcomes Jesus and his party probably the 80 disciples who had made their way through Samaria..

MARY...Now we meet Mary, named after Moses' famous sister Miriam. While Martha is bustling about the house getting ready for dinner,

A careful reading of the context shows us that Mary had been in the kitchen with Martha until Jesus started teaching. Note Martha said that her sister had left her alone to do all the preparation.

Jesus starts teaching and Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening. The rest of the sentence explains that she was actually sitting not directly beside him -- a place of honor -- but at his feet, a place of humility -- and probably attention

"At his feet" seems to have been the phrase connoting a disciple or learner.

- That Jesus would encourage her to listen to him as he taught in the house was, in itself, radical.
- Women were openly despised by the Judaism of the time. Women were exempt from the study of the Torah. Many rabbis actively discouraged women from learning.
- The Mishnah includes some pretty cynical thoughts about women: "May the words of the Torah be burned, they should not be handed over to women.
- Rabbi Eliezer (c. AD 90) said, "If a man gives his daughter a knowledge of the Law it is as though he taught her promiscuity."
- But Jesus encourages Mary to sit listening. I imagine the scene with Jesus seated in a place of honor, perhaps in the house's courtyard, surrounded by eager listeners -- his disciples, prominent members of the community, probably Lazarus, and Mary.
- Jesus speaks, answers questions, tells parables, and teaches. All the time Mary sits and takes it in. She can't imagine anything better than this!

We can make certain assumptions when we read ...That Mary was somewhat younger than Martha and that unlike Martha, had few responsibilities. But how do we know that? We do not... For all we know, it was Mary who had as many or more responsibilities than Martha but somehow had the wherewithal to set aside her tasks and sit at the Lord's feet.

What we do know...Both Mary and Martha are disciples of Jesus. These two women deal with Jesus' visit in two different ways.

Like most sisters, these two women had conflicts which emerged because of their different personalities, roles, and simply the fact that they were siblings.

⁴⁰ *But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

Modern readers often regard Martha as a "homemaker" type of woman, concerned with household details. Some also view her as hospitable, a highly esteemed practice in Jesus' day. That was true and honorable womens work and place

- Inside, Martha is fuming. All these guests, a great deal of cooking, setting the low table where her guest will be seated.
- Too much to do! Dinner will be late unless she can get help.
- But where is her lazy sister Mary? Sitting outside with the men rather than inside doing the work that needs to get done.
- How irresponsible! I can't understand why she thinks she can be out there when there's so much to do to get ready for dinner.

- A woman's place isn't sitting around when there is work to be done. A woman's place is preparing for her guests.

The word translated "distracted" is Greek *perispao*, "1.'to be overburdened. You probably know exactly the kind of resentment and indignation Martha is feeling. The verb is in the imperfect tense, indicating a continued action in the past. Her distraction has been going on for some time.

"The implication is that Martha wished to hear Jesus but was prevented from doing so by the pressure of providing hospitality.

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You know What messes us up most in life is the picture in our head of how it's supposed to be

- an illusion is a false impression of reality and disillusionment is the revealing of that false impression..... and when that illusion is revealed as false we often become hurt and Resentful and the negative self talk starts...
- disillusionment comes when that false belief is popped By reality!

Some Common Illusions we hold

1. Life should be Fair...
2. Certain bad things should not happen to me...
3. he / she should know how I feel
4. If I raise my children right they won't stray
5. It's the parents fault if children turn out wrong
6. Time heals all
7. Ignore it and it will go away...the truth, ignore it and it's sure to stay
8. People should act a certain way...by that I mean the way I think they should act!
9. That's common courtesy...nothing common about courtesy!
10. My emergency is everyone's emergency!
11. God should act a certain way...means...The way I think he should
12. How could God allow that! Illusion...God would never allow that to happen
13. I do (fill in the blank) Justify...but that's not me...then who is it?
14. My Word is my bond
15. Knowing is the same as doing...?
16. God let me down...means, I begged Him to do it my way and He didn't
17. The illusion that sin just falls away...I prayed about it mentality...another words there is no human responsibility.
18. If only I had (fill in the blank) I would be happy...the illusion that happiness comes from someone or something ...husband/wife job, car, money
19. If we pray i.e. beg God...he will do it our way...

20. as if God's main goal is to keep our personal world intact rather than His will...

You see ... We all live in a world that continually reinforces the illusion that this is it...

21. That what we have, who we know, what we do, and how we look, and where we were going...make up our value as a person...

22. We labor under the illusion That I can always put off what needs to be done today...until tomorrow... because tomorrow will always be there

23. The illusion that you can play and not pay...

24. The illusion that we are the exception to the rules...we are different than everybody else...what happens to them won't happen to us

25. But These illusions are often rudely destroyed by the realities that what we have can be taken, who we know changes, and what we do...inevitably comes to a conclusion...

26. And it all gets halted by these two little things called time and death

27. Time alters it all slowly, death alters life permanently...

28. The illusion is we can cheat time...and deny death by putting it off...at least by not thinking about it....

29. The truth is....Your life begins with the shortness of time and ends with the vastness of eternity

30. Now God never has that problem because he knows that eternity is the true reality... it is time on this earth that is temporary...

31. So it is wise for us at the today to adjust our focus as the Apostle Paul tells us...

*2CO 4: 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is **temporary**, but what is unseen is eternal.*

32. Your life begins with the shortness of time and ends with the vastness of eternity, this is the reality of life...

33.

looking back we can all say...most of my plans did not go as I planned

What we all struggle with is called **cognitive dissonance** a state of mental contradiction, the term cognitive dissonance describes **conflicting thoughts** or beliefs (**cognitions**) that occur at the same time, or when engaged in behaviors that conflict with one's beliefs.

➤ In simple terms, it can be the filtering of information that conflicts with what one already believes, in an effort to ignore that information and reinforce one's beliefs.

Let me give you a couple examples from Scripture....

- Scripture does not use the term disillusioned, but there are many examples of people in scripture whose symptoms attitudes and feelings parallel ours....that gives me some hope!
- Solomon the writer of Ecclesiastes and described as the wisest man who ever lived... certainly fits the description... exhausted and disillusioned...

ECC 2:17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.

- **and whether he is wise or a fool he will be here and I won't..... so what is it all for?**

- I am spending my life building the most expensive and beautiful places anywhere...why?

ECC 2:20 So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? ²³ All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

- He thought his labor would produce fulfilling and amazing things... Come to find out All My labor has been exhausting...
- and I don't even sleep anymore...Haven't got what I hoped...disillusioned

And how about Elijah when exhausted and disillusioned after a powerful time of victory in ministry made these statements... ..

1KI 19: 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

- here is a guy who destroyed four hundred false prophets for God!!!... and apparently no one really cared, not even God ...it gained him no popularity... it actually did the opposite and put him on the Kings most wanted list
- I thought the outcome would be different
- completely disillusioned.....i am in the desert... I have had enough...take me out
- and a little motive has shown thru...A little bit of pride revealed..."I'm no better than my ancestors" which translated means...I thought I was better!
- Forty days into his disillusionment...a lot of self talk has been taking place... he comes to this conclusion...

1KI 19:10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

- I have been a good prophet... totally sold out for you...
- not like your people...who not only reject you they kill your prophets...
- apparently you don't appreciate me, and they don't appreciate me, and no one helps me.... in fact they even are trying to kill me...

- I am the only one who works hard for you...I am all alone... what a waste of time and energy...all for nothing. Now that's a major funk!
- I am completely disillusioned...I have certainly not received the results I worked so hard for...

and what about Job...

JOB 1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

JOB 1:4 His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

- and boom he loses it all...so much for righteous living... including ten children...I cant even begin to grasp that kind of pain...
- but Job did something that I admit I have sinned in....in all his losses he did not say God did him wrong....
- I have not said that also...but myself talk has certainly said it....and my feeling have agreed with that assessment...

JOB 1:22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

- I must admit I have felt like Peter...when he told Jesus his plan was wrong and flat out ...that he would do all he could to stop it...

*MK 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ^{MK 8:33} But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "**Get behind** me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*

then he says after that...

MK 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

- Mans cross is himself and his illusions...my cross is my own self talk about the things of God...

- He is going to continue to disillusion me ...but it is really my own illusions that are being challenged...because they are the stuff of fantasy...
- and He keeps bringing me back to reality....
- and all I am left with is following him....

Now all these men and me and you struggle with differing states of illusions... but none of them nor you or I will be allowed to remain in that state...thank God...I think...

- He will pop our illusions our fantasies about how things work out... by disillusioning us....bringing us to reality...
- an illusion is a false impression of reality and disillusionment is the revealing of that false impression.... and when that illusion is revealed as false we often become hurt and Resentful and the negative self talk starts...
- disillusionment comes when that false belief is popped By reality!

we encounter John the Baptist experiencing a crisis of faith... John though a prophet of God...did not know all the Lord's will or ways...just like us..

and he must learn like all of us...**When you can't trace God's hand, trust His heart.**

JN 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Heart refers to attitude...

Let's pick up the narrative..

LK 7:16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

LK 7:18 John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, 19 he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

LK 7:20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

LK 7:21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

But God does not leave us in that state if we choose to apply the remedy he has for us...

- The antidote... one's faith must run deep to endure trials and persecution... **When you can't trace God's hand, trust His heart.**
- Because trials will cause us to question our preconceived ideas ...on how life should work...

The solution...keep your eyes on Jesus...no matter what...

Luke 7:23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

On account of the way I do my job... Faith is not faith until it's all you're holding on to. When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. (Corrie Ten Boom, author and Holocaust survivor)

There are at least three reasons John doubted...Jesus as the Messiah...

1. He was in prison... he was in isolation...left to his own thoughts.....John was a man of action it would be extremely difficult for him to be out of action in a hot and desolate prison ...sidelined in life... many of us struggle with doubt during seasons of isolation...alone...and Jesus did not seem to be doing anything about it...
2. John was emotionally drained...and disillusioned...he had served God with all his strength, even to the point of confronting Herod for his sexual indiscretions...he was emotionally spent...burned out... **Anyone can become exhausted.** What is so poignant about burnout is that it mainly strikes people who are highly committed to their work: You can only "burn out" if you have been "on fire" in the first place. Again, Only people highly committed and deeply devoted are candidates for disillusionment...he did nothing but good and it backfired on him **and Jesus did not seem to be doing anything about it...**
3. Where is the Justice....The messiah was not acting like the messiah he thought he should...where was the winnowing fork of justice?? **And Jesus did not seem to be doing anything about it...**

So what does Jesus do...nothing about judging people...but healing them...loving them...helping all who will come to him..

LK 7:21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

1. **You see the problem John had was that he was looking for what he wanted Jesus to do...and was missing what Jesus was actually doing...
You see Jesus is always doing something ...look for that...pay attention to that...**
2. **And secondly... the problem John had is the same we deal with also...Jesus' timing... if he is going to bring Justice ...why am I in prison unjustly? Why are the Jewish people not flocking to you? Why are the gentiles so receptive to you? You are really bumming me out!!!**

So does Jesus scold John for his season of doubt...caused by trouble and misunderstanding??? **No...** I am so glad God sees the whole video tape of my life, and not just a snapshot of where I am now...or what I have done in the past... John doubts Jesus and Jesus brags on him!!!

LK 7:24 After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?

- He is bragging on the strength of the character of John...after all even in prison
- He is true to his mission...sending messengers to ask Jesus...are you him...or should I keep looking?
- There is no quit in the man..

Jesus goes on in his bragging...

Luke7:25 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:

" I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. '

LK 7:28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

- **John is the last of the O.T. prophets...those who prepared the way for Jesus...**
- **He is the greatest because he actually introduced him to the world..**
- **Yet all of us who have come after the Lord...know him as the resurrected King...our witness is complete so we are greater in knowledge than all the O.T. prophets.**
- **That is why we can say without a doubt ...go to Jesus...**
- **And when in doubt...go to Jesus..**
- **Everyone in here ..is like John in this way...we have not quit...we may have been down but we still have some hope ...**

Even in a pile of manure, a flower will grow.

- **As many of us know, disillusionment can be dark and deep. It can seem to be an eternal part of our lives, but hope is always close at hand.**
- **Hope is our first look away from the problem. When despair rules the day and the night, there seems to be no way out. We wonder if this feeling of hopelessness will ever pass.**
- **It is in moments like these that hope is born. There stirs in us the possibility of an answer. We wonder if life can be different.**

Hope is needed by the human family. It keeps us going in difficult times. In fact, hope can be the only thing that keeps the hounds of despair at bay. Hope keeps us going, but it never gets us to where we want to go. This is the work of faith.

Faith is the bridge between hope and the answer and the new life that await us.

Let me share something with you Jesus said:

MT 11: 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

- **You see...The Kingdom of Heaven moves forward it is proactive...**
- **Those willing to move forward will experience it...**
- **John had to fight his demons we have to fight ours...**
- **He like all of us was made up of strengths and weaknesses**
- **Faith and doubt...sinner and saint..**
- **Comprehending some things clearly and some dimly...**
- **But he sought the Lord in his doubt...when he felt like a failure...may we do the same..**

With his greatest fear...he ran to Jesus...he thought he had missed his purpose...but he was not giving in...

You know we would be better off right today...if we understood this truth...

- **Many of our greatest fears have already taken place in our lives...and look we are still here ...and we are OK...and through many of them we have grown and become better people...**

Which in reality makes them not fears or failures...but stepping stones...

Think about it...name something you dreaded happening that happened...

- **It changed you...and good things came from it...not all perhaps but many...**
- **We learned, we were stronger than we thought, could endure more than we thought we could...we went on when we thought we could not...**
- **It wasn't as bad as we thought or the end as we thought...**

*JN 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world** you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

When you can't trace God's hand, trust His heart.

Faith is not faith until it's all you're holding on to. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear, something else is more important than loss, something else is more important than feelings..... (Ambrose Redmoon)

Why do we have faith in him? Because he is God and he loves us...

RO 8: 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Resolve to remember that if he died for us while we were still enemies, he will love us when we are failures.
- Even when we doubt...even when we are disillusioned by the way he does things!

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Footnotes:

If the Scriptures are truly the word of God, then we should expect help and profit from them even when we don't feel the help or see the profit. Maybe the Holy Spirit is doing something. Our conviction should be that it will not return void.

end

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Tell Her to Help Me (10:40b)

"She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' " (10:40b)

- **Finally, Martha can stand it no longer. She comes to where Jesus is, and seems to interrupt the conversation he is having.**
- **She doesn't rebuke her sister in front of Jesus; she almost seems to be rebuking Jesus himself for not caring, for not having ordered Mary to go and help her sister an hour before.**
- **She doesn't ask Mary to help her. She commands Jesus, "Tell her to help me!" Her anger and frustration have taken over.**

Jesus knows that neither Mary nor Martha can live by bread alone... It was now time to digest some spiritual bread and feed the soul.

MT 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

- Martha was being distracted from her soul's needs by other things. The other things in this case are not bad things.
- Sometimes, even good things can fill up our lives to the point where we neglect our souls.
- God has not blessed us with our families, friends, jobs, abilities and other gifts to give us an excuse to abandon a close walk with Him. Without Him we can do nothing (JOHN 15:5).

DO NOT LET SO MANY THINGS WORRY YOU

"But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things.'" (LUKE 10:41).

- **Anxiety is a killer. Many of the physical and mental ills of our present day are stress related.**
- **And Martha is certainly a stressed out lady at this point in time.**
- Her exasperation can be seen in the way she forms her question, "Lord, do You not care...?" I can well imagine her "stewing" for a time in the kitchen (where else would you stew?) before being emboldened to charge into the room in such a way.
- **The Lord does care, but not nearly as much about the problem as Martha sees it as He does about the real problem of which Martha is unaware.**
- **The Lord is more concerned about Martha's state of mind and priorities than He is about being served a feast later on.**

The antidote to anxiety...THE NECESSARY THING

"...but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken from her." (LUKE 10:42).

The good part which Mary had chosen was to listen to the Lord's teaching.

- In the scheme of life, the things Jesus said that day were of much more importance than what He ate.
- Sitting with Jesus builds faith...Faith is the answer...and it comes by hearing the word of Jesus
- in the presence of God is Where faith grows, and anxiety lessens.
- This is one of the chief lessons Jesus taught earlier in His ministry during what we call the sermon on the mount;

"Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?'... But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (MATTHEW 6:31-33).

Having the correct set of priorities (putting His kingdom first) will greatly reduce your chance of heart attack.

It Will Not Be Taken Away from Her (10:42b)

"Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (10:42)

- Even though it cuts across the grain of societal expectations, even though it means neglecting her regular duties, Mary has correctly discerned that listening to Jesus is more important than anything -- anything else she can choose.
- And she will not be deprived when doing that...she will not lose out on something else..And no one can rip this precious spiritual food away from her. The word translated "taken away" is Greek *aphaireo*, "passive 'be taken away, robbed ... deprived of something.'

I don't want to be too hard on Martha, Jesus certainly wasn't. But he tried very gently to explain how Mary's choice was better, and that she shouldn't be deprived of it by having to be marched off to the kitchen by her sister. And Martha sit here with me...

The one thing that Jesus seeks above all else is time that you spend time listening to him, "sitting at his feet," as it were.

That needs to come first, before all these other things. That is where peace is found. That is the only place of spiritual rest.

"Martha, why don't you take off your apron and sit down for a few minutes. Dinner can wait.

PS 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God....

- To really know God ..you have to learn to be still...quiet...listen..and you what that is the same with all relationships...

This is the deal, I am a lot like Martha and I would say most of us are...you see Martha wanted to sit at Jesus feet...too...

- But she was angry she could not...she had to much to do...I get like that
- She was frustrated... that if she got the right help her work would get done quicker so she could not sit at Jesus feet... I to know that frustration
- She was Jealous of Mary that Mary would set aside duty to be with Jesus ...man how could she do that...I wish I could...I can relate to that..

But for some of us I think something else is going on...and perhaps with Martha...

- Maybe Martha doesn't know how to do relationships well...so she continues to put to much on herself so she is always busy...a martyr...yeah Martha the Martyr...
- Maybe that is her way to get acknowledge...Jesus look what I am doing...notice me...
- Maybe she struggles with I am only worth while if I work...if I perform you will approve of me...I can relate to that...
- Maybe being with Jesus made her uncomfortable...so work makes a convenient distraction...
- That I always have to serve Jesus...that being with him alone...just him and me is way to personal... I get that...
- That is a huge way we love God sitting with him...and how we love eachother sitting with those we love be still and know God...be still and know eachother...

Jesus just want us to rest in his presence...and we need to rest in the presence of eachother.....there is always something more to do...something else to do...rest with me...

MT 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke (love) upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke(love) is easy and my burden (faith) is light."

There's something very dear to my heart that I'd like to share with you -- you personally. Do you have some time right now?"

Song to sit by and be with Jesus... listen we get to bound up with life...

PHP 4: 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Today, if we are too busy to commune with the Lord; to pray and enjoy His word; to meditate on life's purpose and to enjoy a peaceful, private time with Him, then there is something horribly wrong with our practice. If our walk of faith consists mainly of going to church and then on with life's busy day then we are not receiving of the goodness that the Lord has planned for us. And if we are so hassled by the routines of daily existence that we find ourselves lashing out at those we love as Martha did on that occasion, then isn't that a good indication that something needs fixed?

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Growth requires change

It takes courage to examine ones life, decide what isn't working and change it...But that is how we grow...and growing is what it is all about...

When you stop growing you start dying...And Spiritual, emotional, relational growth is no different it doesn't happen automatically...it takes effort

But Growth is difficult...Why?

- **Because growth requires change and most of us are uncomfortable with change...**
- **But if we don't change we don't grow and if we don't grow were not really living were existing, surviving...and we will never become what we could be...**

Transplanting a tree to a larger container...first shock then thrive

A lobster sheds his shell yearly and never goes back to it.....

- **some of us have been trying to stay in the same shell years after outgrowing it!**
- **Or leaving the shell, but never getting to moving from it**
- **Or making our home outside the old shell ...trying to relive the good old days when that shell fit...**

And you guys are taking the next step in your journey with the Lord...you know Noah had to to the same thing and some of his experiences are very similar to yours...so let's see what we can glean from His experiences to take with us today from here:

GE 7: 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

we often think were to old and to late...you got nothing on Noah

- he was coming out of a corrupt world...us too
- shut up Noah in an ark...
- Teen challenge was your ark..
- then all heck breaks loose..

GE 7: 17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. 18 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. 20 The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.^{[a][b]} 21 Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. 23 Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

24 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Noah had little control....

1. None outside the boat
2. only maintenance labor on the inside..dirty work
3. could not change, alter, or escape no alternatives except through it ...shut in
4. He was with who he was with...and God brought them
5. he could not steer nor see out
6. He and and the people he was with were it... left all alone

Do you ever feel that way...

It is not without profound impact...that God did not tell Noah how long the Rain would last..only that he would save Him...

That is his personal situation...His circumstances were worse Imagine this...

- A Month and ten days of torrential rain...even more than that from the exterior of the earth
- Water gushes from the interior of the earth
- Tosses to and fro relentlessly
- As the earths crust erupts and changes
- Mountains rise and valleys sink
- The mountains covered to a depth of 22 feet enough for the boats displacement to about 20 feet to float over every mountain.
- Just enough to protect the ark from damage.
- **I would like something like forty feet to be on the safe side...but God knows how to protect his own.**

For 150 days it continues to flood, although the rain lessens after forty days... **For Five month's they do not see daylight...**

Questions one might ask...and you guys have too:

- Will it ever end? And then how will this End? Will the ark hold together?
- this boat stinks? Will we survive?

Just Then God remembers Noah...

GE 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ² Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³ The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

- **Then the Boat rests...on Ararat...Verse 3+4... after the 150 days the water went down about 22 feet...enough so the Ark rested on a 17,000 foot mountain**
- **Verse 5...2 and one half months later other mountain tops could be seen..They still have not left the boat nor seen what was around...sitting on top of a high mountain...I wonder if they felt secure?**
- **Let's read on...there comes those little hopes and blessings...you see some change...**

GE 8:6 After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

264th day after the flood He sends out a raven...Omnivorous scavenger

- **Used by sailors..flies directly to land ..If it died not a clean animal anyway...many of us probably wish it would have.**

- 271 day Dove #1....278 day dove #2 returns with olive leaf
- 285 day sends out dove #3 no return....Noah waited another 29 days (314) to remove roof...and look around

Then waited another 57 days (371) to leave Altogether he and his family were in the ark 53 weeks. and you guys have been in your own Ark ...but you will come out...anf make your lives up down in the valley of Life...Like Noah it will be different ...and new and another challenge...

Great lesson for all of us...

Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

An astonishing fact is that Noah did not leave the ark until God told Him too... God told him to get in and he was not leaving until God told him to get out..

What God starts He will complete in us, for us and with us

GE 8: 16 Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

- **He offered him a sacrifice of clean animals...he must start the next journey of his life... and that is God’s plan for you two and also for everyone in this room...You are preparing to get in an ark..in an Ark...Moving out of an Ark onto your next journey**

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A different sort of healing 010417

This morning my mind was in turmoil as I was tripping on our church plants, frustrated at some people...feeling judgmental toward others, ...you know it was a spiritual day!

In the early afternoon I went to UCI hospital, with the hope of bringing comfort to a man named Dave Webb who was getting ready to have a life prolonging procedure to clear his left carotid artery so that blood could flow better

to his face and brain. His head was swollen twice the normal size on his right side and his left much worse. He looked like a character in a horror movie... And that was not even the worse problem...his body is riddled with cancer and he has been given a couple months to live.

I prayed on the way there that God would give me words of comfort for him as I did not know him well and had only met him a couple months earlier at church when I prayed for his healing...

Upon reaching the intensive care unit, I made a right instead of a left and walked all the way through the wrong wing of this part of the hospital...passing room after room of people battling to stay alive, many rooms had family members huddled around the patients...their loved ones, others no one there but the patients and the attending nurse either inside the room or sitting at a desk outside. I began to notice that my mind began to get quiet as I felt more and more present being aware of this being a sacred space ...a place between life and death.

After being directed to the right section of the ICU I entered his room, it was crowded. Dave was surrounded by family; mom, dad, sister, nephew, best friend brother, and a nurse ...and his two young sons... one eleven and one nine. The boys introduced themselves like little gentlemen and did not appear to grasp the magnitude of the situation. Everyone else was traumatized and emotionally drained. It has already been a long two-year battle.

After introductions with those I did not know, I kindly asked if David and I could have a few minutes alone. They obliged and went out to the hall. I have been doing hospital visits for many years and have become much more of a take charge spiritual person, not afraid to get real with the gravity of these situations...David's preparation for eternity was my main concern. Yet my heart broke inwardly when I saw his boys leave the room so we could talk...and I thought back to my own dad's passing when I was a teen, and I thought for a fleeting moment of my seven siblings, and how traumatic it was for each of them, in their individual own silent turmoil.... we never talked of my dad's illness during that year's time, and no one talked to us... it was many years later before we dialogued with each other of this life altering experience. I was overwhelmed with sadness for these boys, and I knew they attended our church. I made a note to myself...I must talk to these young children about their feelings...but right now it is about Dave.

I sat down in a chair pulled up close to the bed...he was sitting up on the side of the bed facing me. He had a trach in his throat so he could not speak and he was communicating via note pad. We shook hands and we looked at each other eyes to eye...as one of his was swollen shut.

I asked him if he was ready to see Jesus? He shook his head no, and started writing on the pad. When he was done he handed it to me...

He wrote and I can still see it clearly in my mind...like a photograph...he said I am a widower, and I have two sons one eleven and one nine and I worry about them. I have known the Holy Spirit and Jesus since I was a boy, but I am worried about being forgiven for my past sins. I don't know 100% if I am going to heaven.

I looked up at him...and there was nothing else in this world that concerned me or him...I was totally present it was just him, me and Jesus...addressing the ultimate concerns of all people when everything is stripped away... everything except facing the reality of impending death....all the vast concerns of life are whittled down to only three.... those we love who will be left behind...God and eternity

I began my response by addressing his first worry...his sons...I shared with him the first truth I know...and that is I don't know why God will most likely unless he does a miracle take David home to heaven... leaving his boys without a mother or father....i have no answer for that...because it just doesn't make sense or seem right. Then I shared what I also know...God is good, God loves him and loves his boys. God will not abandon them and if God takes you home to heaven you will still be in their lives, and God will take care of them. I shared that we all

will leave this earth at some time, we just don't get to choose how or when...but he is a good God and that is what we hold on too.

And I shared God's plan even in this situation will prove to be good. We don't know it now, but we will someday and it will prove to be good. I told him those boys will always be his and he will be their ad for all eternity, and he will be apart of their lives here or their. He nodded his head yes.

Then we talked about Jesus removing his sins and dying that we may live...he listened perhaps in a way he never listened before... As I explained he cried, and exhaled a deep sigh of relief and understanding and the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit descended upon him it was palpable. After we spoke for about fifteen minutes more he asked that his family come back in and we all prayed and I anointed him with oil. After we finished, David turned and grabbed the note pad and wrote I did not feel the oil...Immediately I grabbed the vile and poured it on his head... he noddedhe felt it! It was as if God had literally touched him

Everyone hugged and I was shaken as he hugged his young sons tight and kissed their heads, perhaps for the last time on earth. I wept. As I got ready to leave we bumped fists it was cool. I said my goodbyes to his family and began the slow walk back to my car as he was prepped for major surgery...would he make it out on this side...I did not know, but God did and that somehow was good enough. I wondered if and hoped that Jesus would still heal him for his boys.

What struck me in the parking structure was the thought that I went to comfort for the next step of his journey Dave but he comforted me in the next step of my day. All that was concerning me about life melted away in that room...I was reoriented toward what is important in life... knowing Jesus, and loving others....Thank you Dave for taking the time to minister to me, even though we talked nothing about my life.. I received a healing...

FYI David made it through surgery..i will visit him again soon...I cant wait!

Update...He died a month later... which means he lost the battle here...but he entered inot Heaven meaning he won the Battle of life...and heir to the resurrection and eternal life...