

WORSHIP AND SERVICE

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Today, we are living in a fast-paced world. Though the pandemic gave us time to pause, this year, we are starting to rapidly get back to regular work. Little by little we are getting busier once again as we begin to experience the demands of this world!

Thankfully, through the pandemic, we were given ample time to rest, reflect, and restart. God gave us two years to prepare for what's coming ahead!

So, as we fully adjust to our new situation after the pandemic, we should ask ourselves this very important question: Are we truly prepared?

Are we ready to start daily routines? Are we ready to take more responsibilities? Are we ready to attend face to face classes? Are we ready to work regularly onsite? More importantly, as we take on all these things, are our hearts ready?

As we fully engage with the demands of this world, we must always remember that too much busyness can greatly affect our inner being. Though busyness is not inherently bad, it can be dangerous not just to our physical, but also spiritual health. How would we know if

we are being too busy? Let us learn from the story of Martha and Mary.

In the passage from Luke 10:38-42, we see that two sisters had an encounter with Jesus and had different responses. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His teaching, while Martha served too much. Jesus also had different responses. Jesus scolded Martha, but He honored Mary. In human perspective, Martha did the right thing to serve Jesus. But in Jesus' perspective, Martha missed a vital thing.

While serving Jesus, Martha complained when she saw Mary doing nothing. Then Jesus answered:

"...you are *anxious* and *troubled* about many things..." (v.41).

Jesus pointed out that Martha's problem is her anxious and troubled heart. We must realize that Jesus did not scold Martha because of her busyness. Jesus did not say that Martha is sweeping the floor too much, washing the dishes too much, or preparing the food too much. Jesus did not even rebuke Martha of her service. The Lord does not look at the outward. The Lord looks at

the heart. But Martha's heart was just the surface of the problem. The real problem lies on what Jesus said in verse 42.

"But *one thing* is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." (v.42)

Jesus was saying that the reason why Martha's heart is disturbed, is because she has neglected that one thing! What is that one thing that is necessary? It is the good portion that Mary has chosen - to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His teaching! It is to receive from Jesus, so our heart would be full. Martha was actually serving Jesus with an empty heart, because she has neglected the necessary, good portion, of allowing Jesus to fill her heart!

Church, let us not allow ourselves to be carried away with the many things we have to do as we get into the new normal. We must not forget, and we must not neglect the one thing which is necessary. Even if we have so many responsibilities, let us always prioritize our time with God, and allow Jesus to fill our hearts! ✦