

Session Eight
Walking with Christ

An Audience with the King

Welcome back to week eight of “Walking with Christ”. Hey, did you have a great time at your celebration last week? Did you have so much fun you realized afterwards you should have invited a friend to join you?

Ok, let’s talk. If you did have that much fun—then when we do it again in 6 weeks—**BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

And if you didn’t have that much fun—then you did it wrong! Start thinking now about what you want to do next time. God has given us a great gift—he love to watch us celebrate it. Just read the Old Testament. When God designed celebrations, they went on for days. So do it up right. Have a great time and invite some friends.

There are two people I most admire in my life and hold them up as examples of what I long to be! When I think what it is about them that draws me to them, I know exactly what they have in common that I want! They spend consistent, quality time with God... and a lot of it! Their time in His presence has made them LIKE Him, and it shines in their faces, actions and very lives. One of them is a man who gets up at 4:30 each morning to spend his time with God, since he lives a busy life as a pastor, has 4 kids, and is continuing his education. Any excuses I come up with on why I can’t have a consistent time with God sort of melt away in the face of his example. The other is Beth Moore, a prolific speaker and writer, who seems to live each and every moment in the presence of God! When I watch her speak and hear what God has been teaching her, I leave hungry to have what she has...yet guiltily realize it is mine for the taking...I just have not given my time with this Friend the priority that she has! Our to-do lists are a mile long, between jobs, children, spouses, School Boards, maybe college, church activities, exercise...life may seem like a treadmill that is going faster and faster with no chance to jump off! You may say, “I would love to experience the tranquility of God letting me rest in green pastures and lead beside the still waters of Psalm 23, but should I let him to that before or after I go grocery shopping and clean the house for tonight’s dinner party?” If it’s the desire of your heart to draw close to God, I think you will be greatly encouraged by the time you leave here tonight, and I pray that God will speak to you on how you can grow to crave this time with Him.



Fellowship

1. What's your biggest hurdle to spending quiet time with God?



Discipleship

I greatly enjoy my daughter! She's fun to be with! We honestly don't have to have a "deep" and "meaningful" conversation to just enjoy being together. In fact, when she fills up her schedule with time with friends, from study dates to shopping trips or slumber parties, I miss her and start to feel left out! I really don't have any expectations from her other than for her to want to be with *me* sometimes, too...but I would have to say that if the only time I saw her was when she came to me with a list of things she wanted me to do for her, I would feel a bit taken advantage of. One day as I was missing her and our time together, God brought so clearly to my mind how I do the same to Him! I even feel guilty for not praying through my long list of requests and petitions, although they are oftentimes for others, when I think all God wants of me sometimes it to sit and bask at His feet...calm, unhurried and listening to what He wants to say to me. We see a great example of that today in our text of Luke 10:38-42. Let's read it together.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 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!"

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

First of all, let me tell you right now, I identify with Martha! I WANT to be a Mary, but honestly...if 13 dirty, dusty, tired and hungry Galilean men were on the way to my house, I would feel like I had to put aside my desires to sit and listen...for the more "urgent" need of getting them something to eat, drink and make their stay more pleasant. If my house was dirty and I hadn't gotten the dishes done, I would be hiding them and shoving dirty clothes under my hay-filled mattress. I would feel self-righteous, giving up what I really wanted to do "for the greater good"! I would have been right along there with Martha telling Jesus that He needed to do something to help me out! I would mentally know that sitting at Jesus' feet is important...but the tyranny of the "urgent" would undoubtedly win out.

2. Who do you find it easier to relate to—Mary or Martha?
3. Jesus teaches us to put others' needs before our own. Reconcile this truth to his comment that Mary's choice of sitting was the *best* choice.
4. How does Jesus' support of your time with Him encourage you to say "no" to other peoples' demands on your time?

It took guts for Mary to linger with Jesus when she knew her sister! I have a friend who resembles Mary! She considers her time along with God *the* most important part of her day, and would rather not clean the house for a week if it comes down to a choice between that and spending her time with God! She's possessive of it...even though her husband isn't too thrilled with the choice! For my friend, what God thinks of her is more important than what her husband thinks of her time management...and so it was with Mary.

The truth is, our relationship to our Heavenly Bridegroom closely resembles a date life! We have the promise of our future marriage to Him, but now is the time we get to enjoy getting to know Him! To be honest, it wouldn't have made me happy for my wife to have accepted my proposal of marriage, but every time I wanted to spend time with her to get to know her better, she said, "We'll have plenty of time for that later when we get married." I want to get to know her, talk, share ideas, and just hang out together. But it takes a commitment to carve out time in our busy schedules. I also didn't want it to be an obligation for her, but a desire! There is no spiritual fast food, and we can never build intimacy on the run.

It's ironic isn't it? After all, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords deeply desires to have a daily meeting with us! If our President told us, "I would love to meet with you, and hear anything you have to say! In fact, tell me everything you're concerned about and I'll help you!" How many of us would say, "Oh, you know...I might have time tomorrow... let me see how it goes." Or, after missing the appointment, casually mention, "I'm so sorry...I needed the extra sleep this morning and then really needed to check my e-mail before I could justify spending time with you...I just am not going to be able to squeeze you into my schedule today." Sounds silly, doesn't it? Paul had the right attitude in Philippians 3:8 when he said, "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ."

We have lots of good and noble things built into our schedules, and so did Jesus! But he consistently slipped away from the disciples, leaving them wondering where He was. He prioritized the time with His Father...and if He needed the spiritual encouragement and direction in His holy life...how much more do we?



Ministry

5. How can you follow Jesus' example and slip away from your harried schedule?
6. How do you think your life will change if you consistently meet with the King?



Evangelism

7. Psalm 107:9 says, "He satisfies those who are thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Who do you know who needs the rest and fulfillment that knowing Christ brings? Share the names with your group and pray for them.



Worship

8. There is no other "god" in the universe who is credited with craving love and attention from his followers! Spend some time thanking the true God that He craves time with *you!*