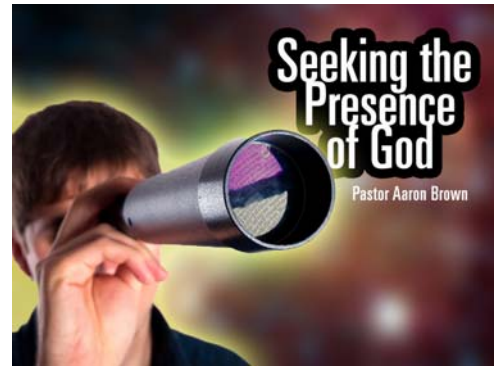


Sermon Discussion Guide January 22, 2012



1. Read Luke 10:38-42. Do you relate more to Martha or Mary? Are you content with your answer?
2. Pastor Brown said two things can happen when we put our focus on things we do for God rather than simply being with God.
 - a. We get frustrated with God when He doesn't "notice" all we have done. Do you think Martha was frustrated with Jesus? What does Luke 17:7-10 teach us about our attitude toward serving God?
 - b. We get judgmental with others who are not as "busy" as we are. What does Luke 18:10-14 and Romans 14:4 teach us about comparing ourselves with others?
3. How do John 6:27 and Luke 4:4 relate to the story of Mary and Martha?
4. Was Jesus angry with Martha for all of her preparations? Is it possible to have the hands of Martha and the heart of Mary? Consider quotes from Terry Teykl and Brother Lawrence.

Jesus was not rebuking Martha...Jesus was not saying that Martha's work was not important, nor was he condemning Martha for attending to the meal. He was commending Mary for her choice to sit at his feet and fellowship with him...It was a lesson on priorities and Mary had hers in the right order. Terry Teykl in Presence Based Church.

Were I a preacher, I would, above all other things, preach the practice of the presence of God. Ah! Knew we but the want we have of the grace and assistance of God, we would never lose sight of him, no, not for a moment. Resolve to spend the rest of your days in his sacred presence. Brother Lawrence Fifth Letter The Practice of the Presence of God

5. Read Revelation 2:2-3. Make a list of all the good things this church is commended for.
6. Read Revelation 2:4. What was the one thing that Jesus was holding against this "good" church? How was this church in Ephesus like Martha? Is it possible for churches today to forsake their first love?

Busyness effectively hides the lack of spiritual substance and depth. If everyone is involved and things are stirring, the reasoning goes, then we must be getting somewhere. But where? While all the activities at the Martha church serve a worthwhile purpose and can be very helpful, if they fail to bring people into an encounter with the living, and not just other people then someone needs to ask the tough question: Are they really part of a Kingdom agenda? ...The church can have meetings, teach classes, answer phones, raise money, feed the poor, sing songs and even do services without thinking much at all about Jesus. When things are clicking along, they really don't need him. Terry Teykl in Presence Based Church.

7. Read Revelation 2:5. What three things is the church called to do in order to restore Jesus as the first love?
 - a. Read Acts 19 to discover the height from which the church in Ephesus had fallen. Compare the church in Acts 19 with the one in Revelation 2.
 - b. What did the church in Ephesus need to repent of? Do we need to repent of the same?
 - c. What things did you use to do that God would call you to "do the things you did at first?"
8. Reflecting on this quote from Terry Teykl, are we a Presence Based Church?

To be Presence based is basically to be completely dependent on God's Presence for everything. Or to turn it around, to be Presence based means that without God's Presence, the church would cease to exist. It is to be God's chosen people, his favorites, whom he longs to be with and who long to be with him. Terry Teykl in Presence Based Church.