

Next Level Church – “Searching” Series – Part 5 - July 12, 2022  
“Searching for Resolution”

**Welcome – One house, many rooms (East, Cape Coral, Online Family & in this room)**

- Fun season for us as a family, our 21-yr old son, Will is doing an internship in Indiana
- Indiana roots...once a year when we go back to Indiana “Back home again in Indiana”
- **PICTURES OF BEING AT IU**
- So fun, but for 20 years...this is our HOME – I love southwest Florida, thankful for this church family
- Nothing like HOME – excited to share today about Jesus’ being in the home of his disciples.

We have covered 4 Stories in 3 Chapters, Luke 7, 8, & 10 – today, we will be closing this series with a 5th STORY / 5 NEEDS / 5 PEOPLE WHO WERE SEARCHING – for forgiveness, for forgiveness, hope, power, for calm & peace (BTW – if you missed last week’s message where Ps Matt shared about mental health, please go online this week and watch)

- 5 needs & 5 answers that all involved the Feet of Jesus!

Let’s get real for a minute – Did anyone have a hard week this week? Maybe it’s been a hard season for you? Maybe not bad, just hard.

- Transition into summer. Kids started a camp this week & it was a little crazy?
- Young adult – time off of school, but you feel a little scattered.
- Unknown of this season with the economy, inflation, maybe you wanted to take a road trip but you’d have to work an extra job just to afford the gas...and you just feel “blah.”

**ILL: You’re not alone. We’ve all had moments like this – I have – where I get to the end of the week & find myself searching for significance. “Did what I do even matter this week?” Searching for answers to that ache in my heart. Searching for what I should do now. Where I should go...**

**Message Title: Searching for Resolution**

- When we feel resolved, then we can be confident. When we find answers, then we can be moved to action.
- But searching for resolution can’t be found in a political party. It can’t be found by working harder. It can’t be found by worrying more OR searching on Google all night long...
- The answers that we are looking for are found at the feet of Jesus!

**PRAY**

Look at a story of 2 sisters – Mary & Martha.

- We know they had a brother (Lazarus) because he later dies & these sisters get to watch a miracle as Jesus raised him from the dead
- But this story is found before that...it’s toward the beginning of their relationship with Jesus.
- Now, I believe that these 2 sisters had a need / I think they had had a hard week / They had a problem they were looking to resolve & THEN Jesus shows up!!!!

Luke 10:38-42 <sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, **who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.** <sup>40</sup> 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!" <sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- Not sure what their need was – what their week was – what their problem was...
- But Jesus comes to their house & one sister sits down to listen
- Other sister springs into action (Type A – driven one & creative, go with the flow...let's chill)
- Mary is with Jesus at his feet listening / Martha in the kitchen (so much to get done)
- Can you imagine – ever been in the kitchen and get a little passive aggressive? "Maybe someone. Could come help me?"
  - o Martha goes Aggressive Aggressive interrupts Jesus and says "Jesus – don't you care – I'm working all by myself" And then she tells Jesus what to do!!! "Tell her to help me"

**Now – I'm not going to give Martha a hard time because I've been Martha. I've been the one upset. Worried. I've looked to others or to Jesus to solve the issue at hand when He wanted to just be with me, but I've also come to realize after almost 40 years of following Jesus, His feet are my answer!**

### Truths about Finding Resolve at Jesus' Feet

#### 1. The answer wasn't found in the working, it was found in the sitting.

- I'm not giving work a hard time; I'm talking about the posture that brings answers.
  - o Our being (who we are) is way more important than what we do.
  - o We are human beings, not human doings.
- Mary was consumed with finding answers at the feet of Jesus, but Martha was consumed with trying to find purpose in her doing.
- **ILL: Jesus is in the house, but the drive inside of Martha kicked into gear – Jesus is here, so I better get up and go and DO something.**
  - o Those of us who are talented, who know how to work hard, who enjoy working hard
  - o This is a challenge – the resolve won't come b/c we work harder, the fulfillment is found in stillness, in being with Him.
- **Psalm 46:10 a "...Be still, and know that I am God..."**
  - o At the end of this message, we are going to take some time to practice this together because stillness is where our answers come.

#### 2. We can be in the house and still lost.

- I'm not talking about lost as in "completely walked away from God" or don't know Jesus as Savior.
- Mary and Martha were both following Jesus – He shows up to their home and both have the opportunity to BE with Him, but Martha was lost in her worry while Mary was sitting.
- Distance with God doesn't just come because of our sin.
  - o "Mary has chosen what is better"

- **ILL: If being at his feet was better, the opposite isn't bad (wrong) – Martha wasn't in an opposing position, she just wasn't in the BEST position to get answers.**
- **Nowhere in the story do we see Jesus ask Martha to go in the kitchen – to go work harder – she was in the house and was still lost.**
- **Distance from the better comes with the good too.**
  - **There are a lot of GOOD things that we can be a part of.**
  - **Sports – Good because my kids have fun, Theme Parks – Good because we laugh and spend time together, Our Workplace – Good because I get paid, Beach – Good because I get a tan, Serving – Good because faith without works is dead.**
  - **But if we aren't careful, the good will keep us from the better.**
    - **If the enemy can't get us to sin, then he'll get us BUSY and we will find ourselves in the house, but still lost.**
    - **Take your kids on vacation – but open your Bible and worship together and watch what happens when you choose the better, then go do the good. Sign them up for a sport, but be sure they are in the house of God every week (it's better) // Go to work, but FIRST spend time with Jesus // Enjoy the beach, but pause and pray and watch how the good becomes better!**

### 3. When we are distanced, it can lead to comparison & lies.

- **Many times when we look at this story, we compare the sisters and their position – at the feet or in the kitchen, but look at the real tragedy...Martha's distance from Jesus got her to believe that Jesus didn't care about her.**
  - *"Lord, don't you care?" "I'm by myself" "Tell her to help me."*
  - *Martha is angry & comparing her journey to someone else's.*
    - **Ever been there? I know I have.**
    - **Why do they get to just sit and have joy? Why do I have to have this journey?**
    - **Start scrolling social media – oh, that's great...my life is so hard & they are having all of the fun!**
  - **Distance from Jesus will lead to jealousy & comparison (sin).**
  - **But it also leads to thinking that God doesn't care about us.**
- **It's not just a female thing (any guys who are thinking – yep – man can girls be like that)!!**
  - **Similar to the parable that Jesus tells of the 2 sons who had a house and an inheritance. One walks away & comes back to be in proximity to his father & the other brother gets jealous of the love // But he had that same access!**
  - **Both brothers were equally loved.**
- **It's okay to ask questions, but don't believe the lie for a second that God doesn't care – HE CARES ABOUT YOU & He will teach you in this season...but we have to choose the better thing!**
  - **We can come running back if we are far. We can fall to our feet if we're stuck in jealousy or comparison. We can demolish the lies and speak the truth.**
  - **That's what Jesus did with Martha – hey, now that we're together...let's get this clear.**

### 4. Proximity to Jesus gives access to learn.

- **God is preparing us church family...it won't look like it did in the past...it's a new thing...our need for resolution often prevents us from learning.**
- **We keep trying to do the same things and get we keep circling the same problems.**
- ***"Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to what He said"***
  - **She wasn't just sitting and she wasn't talking – she was listening.**
  - **I'm imagining that Mary might have told Jesus the situation that she was facing or maybe because Jesus already knew, she didn't even have to tell him – but he started sharing and she was listening...**
    - **Church family, the Holy Spirit lives inside us and counsels us & comfort us, but we have to listen and learn.**
- **Here's what I love though – look at what happens with Martha. She comes storming in & tries to demand that Jesus do something!**
- ***"Martha...you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one."***
  - **He was so loving – even in Martha's aggressive aggressive state, He teaches her.**
  - **Let's call it what it is – you're worried. You're upset.**
  - **There's just ONE THING that you need – I'm not taking it from her, I'm giving it to you...come learn from me...**
- **Proximity gives access to His: Presence / Voice / Who He is / What He has to give**

**Matthew 11:28-29** *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

- **Some of us need to learn some new ways:**
  - **We've been functioning in fear and we need to learn how to function with great faith.**
  - **We've been trying to work our way into significance and we need to hear God's voice tell us who we are:**
    - **You are beloved / You are chose / You are loved / You are mine**
  - **We've been fighting for answers that Only He can give – come to Him & find REST at a soul level.**

## **5. Jesus is never in a hurry with us.**

- **Blows me away that in every story that we have looked at, including this story...Jesus was never in a hurry.**
- **He always had time for people.**
  - **He stands and heals**
  - **He sits and teaches**
  - **He walks and talks**
  - **He reclined and ate meals**
- **When we are in need. Searching. When we sin...He never walks away. HE is right there waiting.**
- **He is our answer.**

**Salvation // I want to give us time to just sit at his feet. Be humble (at his feet) & listen.**

***"Nothing Else"***

**PRAYER FOR EVERYONE – "give us resolve" so we can go do from a new place of being with you!**