

From Luke 10:38-42, *“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”*

In this short encounter with Jesus, we have two sisters: Martha and Mary. Martha is the hostess, as she welcomes Jesus and the disciples into her home and she begins doing what she loves and does best, preparing a meal for everyone. Mary, on the other hand, sits at Jesus’ feet and listens to his every word. Eventually, Martha begins to get stressed out over all the work; distracted from what she’s doing and for whom. I mean, cooking for about fifteen people is no easy task on your own. And where’s her sister? Mary is still at Jesus’ feet, listening and being fed. Soon, Martha becomes so frustrated that lashes out - at Jesus of all people. *Lord, do you not care?*

Martha was doing a good thing, and Jesus does not condemn her for it. The problem comes in when she loses sight of Jesus, gets distracted. In another encounter with Jesus, this time he is walking on water, Peter asks to come out to him in the midst of a storm. As Peter walks on the water to Jesus, all is well. Things turn south when Peter gets distracted, looking at the wind and waves instead of Jesus. It is then that Peter starts to sink.

Can you see a theme here? There is much in life that demands our attention. There is much that brings pain and suffering. There is much that consumes our time. But when you let those things to become your focus, you will sink. Martha missed the sweetness of Jesus, of listening to his Word. And Peter? He missed the refuge and peace that Jesus is in the midst of the storm. When that derecho stormed through here a couple weeks ago, I was in northern Minnesota on family vacation. But instead of enjoying the beautiful East Gull Lake and time with family, I was fixated on my weather app, watching the huge storm. I could not help but imagine water rushing into my basement and me four and a half hours away, helpless. But God took care of my home and our community for that matter. Imagine if I had kept my attention on Jesus.

Whatever it is that is distracting you today, acknowledge it, give it to him and turn your eyes to Jesus, the better portion. For you see, he DOES care, he will never leave you or ever be taken away. Look to him. To God be all glory, forever and ever, Amen.