



**Sermon Study Guide**  
**5/6/18**

*Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.*

**Series Theme**

iChoose

**Sermon Title**

Urgent vs. Important? (Shea Strickland)

**Key Sermon Points**

- We have choices to make in life that are laid out for us by God, but we must make the choice.
- We all wish we had more time to do the things we want to do, but in reality, we always have time to do the things that are important.
- We must learn to do the important because it minimizes the urgent.
- Luke describes Martha as distracted using the Greek word *pe-rē-spā'-ō* (paris-pay-oh my) which literally means to be dragged away. Her preparations were pulling her away from the presence of Jesus in her home.
- Mary chose being with Jesus as more important than everything else, but Martha surrendered to the urgent.
- Ways to focus on the important:
  - Define your priorities.
    - Intentionally consider what is non-negotiable in your life.
    - Develop buoys that mark your "safe" area.
    - Make a list of your highest priorities to follow and share it with others
  - Be ruthlessly selective with your yeses.
    - Opportunity does not equal obligation.
    - Develop a "to don't" list
  - Do first what matters most.
    - If you start with the big things, the rest seems to fit.
    - Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...

**Scripture:** Luke 10:38-40, Matthew 6:31-33,

### **Personal Application**

1. Prayerfully consider the most important things in your life as well as who you are uniquely created to be by God and make an ultimate priority list this week. Share it with a spouse, or friend who can help you follow your list moving forward.
2. Memorize Matthew 6:33 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it several times each day... "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

### **Discussion Questions: (conversations)**

1. What urgent (distracting) things seem to come up most often in your life? How might some important things minimize them?
2. Do you tend to be more like Martha or Mary? Who (as much as you know) has Jesus called you to be?
3. What are the most important things for all of us? For you?
4. In what way(s) might you be able to help others in your family, work, church, life group, etc. by choosing the important over the urgent? How might they be able to help you?

### **Life Groups**

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you consider choices between urgent and important. Is there a way in which your group could pursue some important causes, events, etc. together?

### **Children & Families**

Have your children draw a visual list of the most important things in life. Share your lists with each other. How does it differ from yours? What can you learn or apply for you and your family.

### **Other Resources**

[What Matters Most: The Power of Living Your Values](#): by Hyrum W. Smith

In *What Matters Most*, bestselling author Hyrum W. Smith explains why so many people feel something is missing from their lives because of conflicts between actions and personal values. Through compelling examples from others and from his own extensive experience, Smith outlines a simple but powerful formula to help you identify your own values and live them to the fullest. This strategy consists of three valuable steps:

- Discover what matters most to you
- Make a plan
- Act on that plan

By incorporating Smith's strategy into your life, you will not only re-embrace your values but you will make them your priority. *What Matters Most* is an indispensable and timely guide to living a truly fulfilling life and becoming the person you always wanted to be.

What Matters Most: Four Absolute Necessities in Following Christ: by Tony Evans

*What does it mean to be like Christ?* Following. It's the essence of being like Christ. A new believer learns how to follow Christ by being part of a church of Christ's followers, just like a child learns to talk by listening to his parents or a med school student learns surgery by watching an experienced surgeon. Each of us, no matter how new or established in the faith, is responsible for following Christ and modeling Him to others. But what are the central precepts a person should know to fully follow Christ? Tony Evans presents what he terms "four absolute necessities" to following the Lord. Readers will be led into a more intense, passionate walk with Christ as they come to understand what's required.