

TAKE THE 30-DAY CHALLENGE



Sign up to take JCC's 30 Day Challenge and see how your life changes! Make a commitment from **January 1 through January 31, 2023** to **GROW IN FAITH** by reading the devotional by Max Lucado: *God Is With You Every Day*.

Be ENCOURAGED EACH DAY AS YOU PARTICIPATE. LAUGH A LITTLE, PRAY SOME, AND GROW DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH.



Books are available in the foyer. See Laura for sign up. A \$10 donation is appreciated to cover the cost of the book.

A PRAYER TO KEEP GOD FIRST IN 2023



Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things that have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts. -Debbie McDaniel

Choose

- Jan 01 » We've Come This Far By Faith
- Jan 08 » Better over Busy
- Jan 15 » Purpose over Popularity
- Jan 22 » Surrender over Control
- Jan 29 » Prayer over Panic

Prayer REQUESTS

▶ SALVATION

- Walter Miner III
- Gearen Family
- Tom M.
- Stein Family
- Ryan K.
- Tyler M.
- Mandy W.
- Dave. O

▶ HEALTH ISSUES

- Ruth H. » Health Issues
- Art B. » Health Issues
- Armando » Back Issues
- Jean G. » Health Issues
- Carlos V. » Leukemia
- Karla D. » Cancer Recovery
- Evelyn K. » Cong. Heart Failure
- Mandy W. » Cancer
- Maggie B. » Chemotherapy
- Merle » Health Issues
- Chuck » Hand Injury
- Carlos V. » Health Issues
- Angie & Family » Life Issues
- Bob Arias » Kidney Issues
- Kensey Dunlap » Broken Back
- George I. » Hospitalized
- Samantha B. » Health Issues
- Bob A. » Kidney Cancer
- Dave O. » Hospice
- Christine P. » Bone Cancer
- Howard P. » Diagnosis Pending
- Karen P. » COVID
- Bob S. » By-Pass Surgery

METRICS THAT MATTER (01/01/23)

ATTENDANCE ▶ 20 GIVING ▶ \$3,679 GUESTS ▶ 0
 VOLUNTEERS ▶ 15 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST ▶ 0

Choose

Better over Busyness

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. **[she was busy]** 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." **[she's tattle-taling; and she feels self-righteous, and now she's bossing Jesus around, which is a really bad day.]** But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, **[double in Hebrew means a very intense statement]** 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.**" **Luke 10:38-42**

What is the story about?

- Personality types: Mary, people-oriented vs. Martha, task-oriented.
- What is Jesus' purpose?
 - He shatters a myth.
 - He confronts a fear.
 - He points a better way forward.

Jesus shatters a myth: **busyness = faithfulness**

- Study shows people tend to exaggerate the hours they work because they want to be useful. [WSJ]
- Busyness makes us feel useful...thus, we are tired, burned out, and have nothing left.

Jesus confronts a fear

- What drives Martha's busyness? She's **anxious**.
- Jesus will think poorly of me.
- The work won't get done.
- I'm the only one that can do this.

Jesus makes a way forward

What does Jesus say? "Martha, Martha..." Come be with me!

His approval is a gift.

Jesus: "All that you're striving for is in me."

Jesus: "I'm omni-competent so you don't need to be."

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Psalm 127:1-2

The question is not: "What needs to be done?" The question is: "What does He want me to do?"

Choose better over busyness

1. Not everything that comes from heaven has your name on it.
2. Build your schedule around your calling.
3. Just as God establishes **seasons** into the environment, he establishes **seasons** in your life.

The good portion

- Sit at the feet of Jesus.
- Find your sufficiency in Him.
- Rest. It's your ability to sleep that shows your closeness to God.
- Don't worry about tomorrow.