

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

## Live Anew: Majoring on the Major

Rev Adrian Ng  
Luke 10:38-42

### SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Many of us can see ourselves as Martha, sincerely doing our very best but also complaining to God about others who, in our eyes, do not put in their fair share of effort.
- The immediate passages before and after Luke 10:38-42, shows a distinctive connection between love and discipleship:

Scripture	Discipleship & Love	Disciples@TPMC
Luke 10:25-37 Parable of Good Samaritan	How disciples ought to relate to neighbours in loving action	Love one another Love one more
Luke 10:38-42 Mary and Martha	How disciples ought to love God and one another	Love God Love one another
Luke 11:1-13 The Lord's Prayer	How disciples ought to love God, love one another, love the Church and love one more	Love God Love one another Love our church Love one more

- Discipleship Lessons on LOVE:
  - ✓ **Mary has her priority *right* – Majoring on Jesus.** Hence, Mary loves Jesus. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her. *Discipleship sometimes requires us to pause and suspend task in order for fellowship to be maintained.* Darrell L. Bock in *The NIV Application Commentary* suggests that the way Martha asked the question in Greek makes it clear that she anticipates a positive answer to her question. She expects Jesus to come to her aid. Martha is performing a worthy task, but she is consumed with what others are doing. Jesus does not criticise her for what she is doing but for being concerned about others' activities.
  - ✓ **Martha has her priority *wrong* – Majoring on Mary (others).** In Martha's thoughts and emotions articulated in her words to Jesus, she does not show love for Jesus, nor Mary. *Busyness is not a sin until it pulls us away from becoming loving & criticising others.* Darrell L. Bock further notes that the passage is a key discipleship text, and not in the comparison between Martha and Mary's tasks, but in how Martha has wrongly judged Mary's inaction and worries too much about what others are doing.
- As Disciples of Jesus at TPMC, let us...
  - ✓ **Have our priority RIGHT**, that is, let us major *on Jesus* by prioritizing time to sit at Jesus' feet.
  - ✓ **Not get our priority WRONG**, that is, let us major *on love*! We accomplish this by showing love to others even in our busyness, by not only spending time to sit at the feet of Jesus, but also by responding to others in love and not judging them (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a).

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### RELATE

1. Busyness has become the mark of importance and worthiness in our society, to the point of perceiving one who is not busy is not working hard. What are some prominent characteristics of a busy person?

### REFLECT

2. Unintentionally, we may have allowed busyness to crowd our schedules regardless of whether we are working adults, students, or even retirees! We miss, majoring on the major – prioritizing Jesus and loving Him & others. Why is such busyness a concern for us as disciples@TPMC?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Revelation 2: 1-4; Matthew 6:19-24; 2 Timothy 2:1-5]

### RESPOND

3. Take some time to think about WHAT are you busy with in a day or in a week's timeframe. Reflect on the underlying reasons of your busyness. How much of *your time, effort, money and emotion* did you spend in *majoring on the major* based on Revelation 2:1-4, Matthew 6:19-24 and 2 Timothy 2:1-5? What steps would you want to take to be better in *majoring on the major*?

## PRAYER POINTERS

- Ask God for His forgiveness for living with a busy schedule, for having not found the time to sit at the feet of Jesus, and for not being focused in being who He desires for you to be & doing what He wants you to do.
- Thank God for helping you to become aware of the *one needful thing* to do and that is to choose to major on Jesus and to stop your busyness that takes you away from Him.
- Ask God for His strength for you to check in with Jesus *daily*, starting today for 10 minutes and *increase* the duration in due course.

## SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"But only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." [Luke 10: 42 NASB 1995]