

AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 7/20/25 "Presence Over Performance"

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Opening Prayer: "Gracious God, as we gather to study your Word, quiet our hearts and minds. Please help us to set aside distractions and open our hearts to your presence. Guide us in understanding and applying your teachings in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. Who are the main characters in this passage, and what are their roles?
2. How does this story fit within the broader narrative of Luke 10, particularly with the stories of the Good Samaritan and Jesus' teaching on prayer?

Key Themes: (Presence Over Performance)

3. What does Jesus mean when He says Mary has chosen "the better part"?
4. How does the sermon suggest we understand the balance between service and presence?

Application and Action:

5. Reflect on a time when you were "worried and distracted by many things." How did it affect your relationship with God?
6. How can we ensure that our acts of service are rooted in a genuine desire to serve rather than a need to prove ourselves?
7. What practical steps can you take this week to prioritize being with Jesus over doing for Jesus?
8. How can you incorporate moments of stillness and presence into your daily routine?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a personal experience where you felt torn between doing and being. How did you resolve it?
2. Discuss how the cultural emphasis on productivity might conflict with the call to be present with Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

“Gracious God, thank You for the reminder that our worth is not in our doing but in being with You. Help us to seek Your presence daily and to serve others from a place of love and grace. May our lives reflect Your light in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.”

Journal Prompt: Reflect on the following: "When was the last time I sat in the presence of Jesus with no agenda? What did I learn from that experience, and how can I create more opportunities for such moments?"