

The Exchanger

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The Mission of
FBCWR:
*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

But the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Mark 4:19

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Stop Being Good!

When the Good Becomes the Enemy of the Best

Luke 10:38-42 - Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."



Guess who's coming to dinner? Do you think you would panic if Billy Graham or the President were going to visit your home? My mother tells a story of a time when our family was visited by my father's aunt who was very respected and kind but because she lived far away was not a frequent visitor to our home. So we rolled out the red carpet when she came. When the aunt arrived, she was gushing over how clean and beautiful the house looked and I, about five years old at the time said, "Well, that's because we have been cleaning it up for two whole days". So imagine the checklist you would have

if your guest was the Messiah!

Aside to Martha

Martha, Martha, I can relate to your concerns, you want things to be just right. You want to convey the value you have for your Guest through the great care you show in your prep. Surely He'll notice. But why is He not impressed? He ignores you and lavishes attention on that lazy Mary who's just sitting there like a lump on a log. Perhaps males are not savvy to the unwritten codes which govern female dinner party preparations. So simply draw Jesus' attention to Mary's self-centeredness and surely He'll straighten her out.

Can You Relate?

What a study in contrasts? Martha was a *list* person, Mary a *led* person. Martha was working her plans, while Mary awaited orders. Martha pushed to get ahead, Mary paused to listen. With whom do you identify? Are you driven by fulfilling some external or internal set of expectations of the "good" mother, the "good" employee or the "good" husband. Internal expectations which are self-generated, are often more demanding because the mean judge is always looking over your shoulder.

The tricky part is there are "good" things that must be done but not to the exclusion of the best. So go ahead and do good this year, but to experience the best, carve out quality time every day with Jesus. He will free us from the unnecessary burdens we inflict on ourselves.