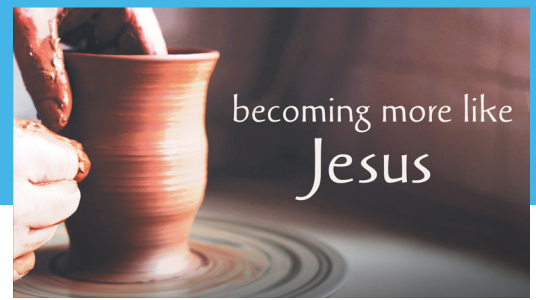


Discussion Questions

October 19, 2025



Becoming More Like Jesus: The One Thing

This week's sermon was a reminder that we are all being spiritually formed, often unintentionally by the distractions, busyness, and digital habits that lead to "malformation" and leave us feeling like we are just treading water. Using the central story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10, James contrasted the anxiety of doing things for Jesus with the peace of simply being with Jesus. While Martha was distracted by her important service, Jesus affirmed Mary's choice to sit at his feet as the "one thing" worth being concerned about. The core invitation for us was to recognize that the path to the abundant life Jesus offers doesn't begin with trying harder, but with the foundational practice of intentionally setting aside our distractions to prioritize His presence, allowing all our activity to flow from a place of intimacy with Him.

1. "Malformation happens naturally... you don't drift towards the way of Jesus but the way of self & disordered desires."

- Do you think this is true? Where have you seen this "natural drift" in your own life recently?

2. Read Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

- Looking closely at the story in Luke 10, what are the specific actions and postures of Mary and Martha? What is Martha "distracted by"? What is Mary focused on?
- Martha was busy doing a good and important thing—serving Jesus himself. Why do you think Jesus calls Mary's choice to sit and listen the "one thing worth being concerned about"?
- What do you think is the difference between doing things for Jesus and being with Jesus? Why is it so much easier to be a "Martha" than a "Mary"?
- James said, "Martha would rather be doing stuff for God than actually spend time with him." In what areas of your life are you more like Martha, focused on "doing" (even good things) rather than "being" with Jesus? What are the primary distractions that pull you away from sitting at His feet?

3. Read Psalm 16:8–9

*I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.*

- David's "secret" was a continual awareness of God's presence. According to these verses, what is the fruit or result of that awareness? How is this relevant today?
- How does it look like in your life to "be with Jesus?" How do you practice this?

4. The sermon identified our smartphones as one of the single biggest obstacles to spending time with Jesus.

- What impact have devices, social media or streaming had on quality of your time spent with Jesus?
- If you don't already do so, do you think you could experiment with going a month without the phone in the bedroom? What would be challenging about this and what might be potential benefits?
- If the phone is not a challenge for you, what are the things that steal your time or distract you that could potentially be addressed.

Luke 10:38–42 (NLT)

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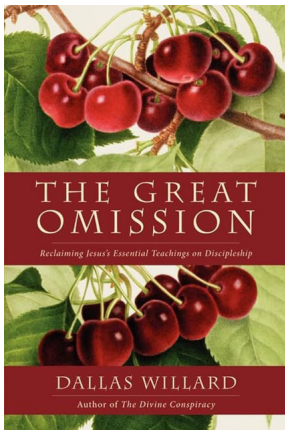
What are you being most Spiritually Formed by?

Quit something Good in order to do what is even better.

Is there anything you need to do less of to make room for Jesus?

John 10:10 (CSB)

A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

Dallas Willard

Discipleship:

"I am learning from Jesus how to lead my life in the Kingdom of the Heavens as he would lead my life if he were I."

"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence."

Thomas Merton

We do not want to be beginners. But let us be convinced of the fact that we will never be anything else but beginners.

Psalm 42:1 - *My soul Thirsts for you*

Psalm 63:1 - *My whole being longs for you*

Psalm 84:2 - *My Soul yearns, even faints... my heart & flesh cry out for you*

Psalm 16:8–9 (NRSV)

I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For David, this Gladness, Joy, Rest & Security was not rooted in doing more, but in being more aware of God's presence with him

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My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:26–27 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

It's not that I am to do nothing, but the activity must flow out of the intimacy and be continually rooted in His presence.

Quit something Good in order to do what is even better.

Is there anything you need to do less of to make room for Jesus?