



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

A FOUR-PART SERIES ON FOUR LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DIVINE

DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4) MARY: POSITIVE FEAR OF MISSING OUT

WELCOME.

WORSHIP.

Sing: *WE FALL DOWN*

WORD.

Introduction: Of the many divine encounters recorded in scripture, the one that is most purposeful was Mary's in Luke 10. Mary intentionally chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and receive Words of life. She had a positive sense of fear of missing out---never wanting to miss anything that God has for her.

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Dig Deep into God's Word:

1. When Martha invited Jesus into her home, what was she doing as compared to what her sister, Mary was doing?
2. What did Marth assume about Jesus and her sister in her angst? How can assumptions or personal agenda's impact relationship with others and with Jesus?
3. What "good portion" did Mary choose and why will it never be taken away?
4. How was Mary's behavior countercultural for a woman in those times? What does Mary's behavior teach us about pursuing Jesus today?
5. What types of earthly responsibilities, distractions, and attitudes pull people away from Jesus today?

WORK.

Apply God's Word:

1. What part of the sermon stood out for you the most?
2. Have you invited Jesus in but neglected to spend time listening and learning from him? If so, what needs to change so that you can spend time at Jesus's feet?
3. Pastor Jon said, "Don't miss out on anything Jesus has for you." He gave examples how we can avoid missing out in practical ways. Which of the practical ways spoke to you strongly the most?
4. What demands do you place on Jesus in hopes that your own personal agendas will be achieved? How do you typically react when my agenda and Jesus's plan do not align?
5. To close, let's drive home the main point: Jesus said, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Will you do the same from now on?