

April 24, 2016  
**The Art of Neighboring**  
*The Time Barrier*  
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



**Luke 10:38 - 42**

**Remove the *distractions*.**

1 Thess 5:21          Eph 5:16-17

**Get the focus off of *me*.**

Pr 18:1          Phil 2:3

**Don't let *worry* drive you**

Matt 6:25 - 33

**Make the *One Thing* the main thing.**

Phil 3:8          Mic 6:8

In the message, Pastor Rick talked about the myths about the time we think we have or will have.

Discuss the following myths regarding how we justify the way we spend our time and how you see them impacting our culture:

1. Things will settle down someday.
2. More will be enough.
3. Everybody lives like this.

Which of these three myths do you struggle with the most?

How does that reveal itself in your life?

Read Luke 10:38 - 42

Are you more of a Martha or are you more of a Mary?

Would people that know you agree with your assessment?

Both these women realized the importance of their special guest. Martha was concerned with serving and making sure everything went smoothly but Mary wanted to spend time with Jesus, listening and learning from him.

How would you defend Martha in this case?

How would you defend Mary in this case?

How did each sister benefit from the Lord's presence? Did one sister benefit more? Which one?

Do you have a special place where you spend time in Jesus' presence, just communing with him? Would you like to share about your special place and how you seek his presence?

Quiet time with Jesus gives us time to spend in his Word, seeking direction in how we spend our time & live our lives. Read I Thessalonians 5:21 & 22 and Ephesians 5:15-17.

We are basically selfish people who would rather spend time pursuing our interests than seeking God.

Would you rather watch TV or read the Word, go to a ball game or visit a shut-in, go shopping or spend time getting to know more about your neighbors?

Martha let many things keep her from what was really important.

Mary was concerned about only one thing.

Are you a "many things" person or a "one thing" person?

What do your many things or your one thing decide for you in life?

Imagine yourself with the time it would take to be a great neighbor.

What are the things you would have to sacrifice to make that a reality?

Why would it be worth it?

What could change in your life or your neighborhood?

Time is an important commodity in each of our lives and how we choose to spend it says volumes about our priorities.

Share with your group how you have done in the last week filling out your neighborhood chart.

Identify one neighbor that you are going to pray for over the next week. Take time right now in your group to pray for that neighbor.

Share one small "next step" that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.

Options you may consider:

1. Learn a specific neighbor's name.
2. Invite a couple over for dinner.
3. Ask a neighbor for advice on how to take care of your lawn because theirs is nicer.

Have everyone share their idea and write it down so that everyone can pray throughout the week.