

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

December 2024

A Gift of Time

I was listening to music on the radio the other day, and the moderator shared an interesting observation he had made. He started out by commenting that often our human relationships here on Earth give us some insight into our relationship with the Lord. As he continued, he gave an example of a partner in a marriage whose strength or even love language consists of acts of service or helps. He observed that often that person gets so involved in how they show love by “doing” that they may miss out on what the other person may want or need. Let’s say the other person feels love when they are given time and conversation. He then compared that to how we express our love to the Lord and questioned whether we may get caught up in “showing” Him how much we love Him, instead of being “with” Him. Might the Lord wish we would stop working and sit quietly with Him?

I have actually thought quite a bit about this since hearing it. I don’t want to sound like these acts of service for the Lord or the good deeds that a husband or wife does for their partner are not valuable. They certainly are and contribute to a successful relationship. I am just wondering if we can get caught up in the “doing” and miss out on something even more special.

As we enter this Christmas season I am feeling more aware of this tendency we have to do “good work”. And again, these things are good! But I guess I am seeing the need to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of the season and make sure I am seeking the best. To make sure I am dwelling on what Christmas is really about and what the greatest gift of all really is! I am going to assume our chaplains struggle with this very thing. They are busy doing good, and doing things that are necessary, and truly being the hands and feet of God in our community and beyond. But are they able to balance that with sitting quietly and processing the things of the Lord along with the hurts of this world? It is a difficult balance. Please continue to pray for them, especially in this busy season.

In closing, I am reminded of the story of Mary and Martha found in the gospel of Luke, chapter 10. Martha was busy doing very good things! But when she protested about Mary’s failure to help and instead sit at the feet of Jesus, He gave a very important answer. “Mary has chosen what is better.” Particularly for us “doers,” let us strive to choose what is better. Thank you for your support of this ministry and we wish you a Christmas full of God’s best and an abundance of joy!

Jan Richards

Be sure to update your Chaplaincy newsletter preferences so we can stay connected. If you can receive the email version we'd love for you to enjoy the new features we'll be adding in coming months, including chaplain interviews, partner highlights, and additional prayer points.

You can start receiving the email newsletter today by signing up at 911chaplain.org, contacting David Johnson at davidj@gatheringchurch.org, or returning the enclosed communication card. Our chaplains value your prayers and support, and we pray the added features help you stay connected as a vital part of this ministry.

Merry Christmas from the Chaplains and the whole team at County-Wide!

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit ministry

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