

feb 2

needful things and time

"for this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him." psalms 32:6

if you're like me you tend to put things off for a more "convenient" time. that makes logical sense a lot of the time. after all, everything needs done and some things are more pressing than others. we need to prioritize the tasks that must be done and then set our selves and our minds to do them.

when i think of being busy i always have to think of the story about mary and martha in the bible. poor martha became frustrated that she was doing all the work alone and she complained to the one she thought would understand all her efforts. "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? therefore tell her to help me." luke 10:40

in reading that story i wonder if she was complaining that she was doing all the work or that she felt she wasn't getting enough credit for doing it. there are certainly things that need done and from time to time one is called upon to do them.

i remember when i was a newbie in the church fellowship and an occasion arose for us all to visit the home of a parishioner who had lost a family member. of course we brought several food dishes and while we were all visiting, i said to my pastor's wife, "i feel like i

need to be doing something." she just kind of rolled her eyes as if to say, "then do it." i got up, went into the kitchen and began washing the pile of dishes.

this was one of those times when i felt i was appointed to a menial task. perhaps the preacher's wife was better equipped to offer words of comfort while i handled the necessary tasks of life. i did what i felt i was equipped to do at the time, but i did something; something beyond a simple "i'm sorry for your loss."

there is a time and a place for everything. while martha was busy attending to the physical tasks, mary was more concerned with the spiritual needs. so what was our Lord's response to martha? "and Jesus answered and said to her, "martha, martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. but one thing is needed, and mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." luke 10:41-42

this was mary's time to commune with her Lord; to drink from His wisdom and soak in His presence. it was a time which indeed would never come again. there would never be a more "convenient" time than this. Jesus was visiting "their" home and His journey was taking Him to His needful destination. mary wanted to make the most of it while martha was busy with things she considered "needful." but were they really that needful? were her priorities in the right order? the word of God says, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." 2 cor 6:2 now that is the only "needful" thing.

are your priorities in the right order today? if you

can't take time to listen to Him today, what "needful things" will be occupying your mind when you are in the middle of a storm and worries and stresses are overwhelming you? will you have your peace established in Him or will the waves of worries drown you in their flood as their waves of worry and fear feverishly toss you in every direction? it's not our Lord hiding in the flood of great waters. He is where He always is; waiting for you to call to Him. He's the lighthouse guiding you to a safe harbor.

i used to think i didn't have time to pray. now i know i don't have time not to pray. He has become my constant. whether it is a paper cut or a great tragedy, He is my first call; my first thought. o Lord, "You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, i cannot attain it." psalms 139:5-6 truly we are a needy people but You are our greatest need; our only need.