

**Important Over Urgent
I Choose – Part 4
January 29, 2017**

**If the devil can't make you bad...
he'll make you busy.**

We all have time for what we choose to have time for.

Luke 10:38 (NIV) *“As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him.*

Luke 10:39-40a (NIV) *“She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what He said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.”*

Luke 10:40b (NIV) *“She came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t You care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ”*

**What’s the most important thing
you’ve been distracted from pursuing?**

Luke 10:41-42 (NIV) *“ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’ ”*

CHOOSING THE IMPORTANT

1. Create artificial deadlines.

Matthew 24:36 & 42 (NIV) *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ⁴² Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 (NIV) “Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

1 Peter 4:7 (NIV) “The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.”

Mark 13:33 (NIV) “Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”

2. Be ruthlessly selective in your “yeses.”

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV) “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 5:33-34a, 37 (NIV) “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

3. Do first what matters most.

Matthew 6:25&33 (NIV) “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ³³ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

F – Finances

I – Interests

R – Relationships

S – Schedule

T – Troubles