

Computer Generated Transcript - As I begin my message just one we're going to continue in a series that we began just called extraordinary God we believe in this place. That that God is such an amazing amazing God and I want to encourage you there's been two points that I've gone over at the beginning of this that we really try and get into people's head into their heart as we've been talking and going through this and it's really a simple thing right the first is there is nothing really extraordinary about the people in the Bible right so many times we elevate them into these people that we can't relate to because we see the things that God through did through them and so we think oh my goodness I can't even begin to wrap my head around how I could be like that right we see people just do this amazing stuff in the Bible and so we think it's you know we start to think about it's the person that did that we call them saints and we put them in stained glass windows and we stop being able to relate to them because we see them almost as like a superhero right like it's fun to read about but you can't really relate to a superhero because you don't have superpowers right and so we begin to do some of those things sometimes with these people in the Bible I want you to know that these were just ordinary people that served in extraordinary Got it wasn't the person that did anything amazing in the scripture wasn't the person that did anything amazing in the story other than they said God use me however you will and then God did amazing things through them all right as a matter of fact if you look through the Bible and you look at how most of this stuff works and if you really pay attention to the people in the Bible most of them are not like first pick material right like if you were trying to put together an all star team of humanity most of these people would not be at the top of that list most of them are B. team at best. Until God grabbed ahold of them and started to do amazing things to. To them and so what I want you to do is to really understand it's GOD THAT IS SO AMAZING not the people in the Bible and the other thing is is we really need to dig into the word on our own and really that's going to be one of the themes for today as as we go many of us start our faith reading the Bible right because we know it's what we need to do we get into what we try and find in there but then life starts to happen and it just kind of sometimes can go by the wayside or the other thing that happens is particularly with these common stories that we're talking about in the Bible as we've heard them so many times we feel like we've learned all there is to learn from them right but unfortunately most of us stop them as a child and what happened was our understanding of them stopped at a childlike level all right now there is nothing wrong with teaching children the Bible stories in a way that children understand what the problem comes is as adults as our understanding grows if our understanding of the story stays at a Veggie Tales level that's not really helpful. So I want to encourage you as you go through the Bible as you go through faith you need to be in the Word of God on your own you need to study you to find out what it's saying what it means today really look at some of these things that you or that you thought you already knew and just take a look at what it might be saying to you today and so today we're going to I'm going to open up to Luke Chapter ten we're going to tell a familiar story about a couple of sisters right I mean have you opened a Luke Chapter ten and we're going to look at this and this is such. A Interesting story an interesting look at humanity the way that families work together so many times many of you have heard this story if you're new to your faith you're new to church and I keep calling these things you know common Bible stories and you're like there is nothing common to me I'm so glad you're here forgive my you know forgive my. I know that not everybody is familiar with the Bible as some of the people here who have been going to church since they were you know babies and now they're in their eighty's you know and so to some people these are really common some people they might be brand new but I guarantee you if you give Jesus a shot and you continue to grow on him these will become common stories to you because they that we hear them so often taught about read about and they make these a lot of these stories in the movies you know all these kind of things it's such an amazing thing but this is this is a story about a family dynamic that a lot of times I feel like we miss one of the driving points of right as as we look through this story we meet these two sisters and we see basically a surprise dinner party has to happen. Right so in Luke Chapter two in we see we see all this stuff coming together and I just want to paint the picture for you Jesus is traveling and he is just the chapter before this sent out seventy two disciples two by two OK and they all go out and

they share their faith and they do all these things and they all come back together and Jesus is talking is rejoicing I'm going to come back into this in what God does and then just as you continue to read on in the same chapter it says and they stop at the House of Martha and Mary and most of us when we think Jesus and the disciples show up that means thirteen guys maybe it was thirteen maybe it was but we just read seventy two at the beginning of this so I want you to imagine for just a second anybody who's ever made a meal on the fly especially what it would be like to at a minimum have thirteen men between the ages of about seventeen and thirty five show up for dinner all at once OK now let's just broaden that out a little bit and say Most fool likely since Jesus just sent out seventy two and they came back. That were probably not talking about thirteen men we're probably talking about seventy three men OK. Just throw together a quick dinner. OK. Let's read the story Luke Chapter ten verse thirty eight. Luke Chapter ten verse thirty eight if you're unfamiliar with your Bible there's an Old Testament and the New Testament OK you're going to be flipping from the front to the back there's going to be a whole bunch of weird names those are the prophets OK then you're going to get some Matthew Mark Luke in the New Testament those names that you recognized hey luke is the third one of those in the New Testament Luke Chapter ten I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation The future is an online version Lagasse you version you know something like that I read out of that if you want to see the same words that I want to read if you have your own favorite translation that's awesome too and that's fine but that's the one I'm going to read out of this morning salute Chapter ten verse thirty eight says as Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed her into her home welcomed him into her home her sister Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he taught but Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing she came to Jesus and said Lord doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work tell her to come and help me but the Lord said to her My dear Martha you are worried and upset over all these details there is only one thing worth being concerned about Mary has discovered it and it will not be taken away from her. Super familiar story right books upon books upon books have been written on this tiny little portion of Scripture right there was a pastor's wife in Montana that wrote one called a merry heart in a Martha world right and and talked about all of these different things and I understand the Dr here and we're going to get to it in just a second but I I told you those details at the beginning so you can begin maybe to relate with Martha just a little bit in this story I know we all want to be Mary right we all want to be the ones if you've been following Jesus who's sitting at the feet of the disciples but you need to understand in this culture since it was Martha's home and these people come into her home she is obligated to provide a meal. It's her job to provide a meal. OK And so she's making this meal for a minimum of thirteen additional people right they didn't have cell phones Jesus probably wasn't able to text ahead and be like hey be there in fifteen. Right I mean this is something that probably happens roughly on the fly now they might have sent somebody ahead and said hey maybe tomorrow will be there but this is not really guaranteed traveling circumstances this is not really easy this is this is kind of one of those things where Jesus is on the way they stop at this home and they've got to just stop what they're doing and make a meal for a minimum of thirteen extra people but most likely seventy three extra people I want you just think about that for just a second it's your job to promote like let's just say I'm going to pick one of you at random and after church we're all coming to your house and you need to provide a meal how many of you would find a slight bit of stress in that circumstance but size the fact that the house isn't clean right like just like take that out of the equation and maybe your house like magically or maybe miraculously Jesus sends and angels to clean your house take that out you have to provide food for the church when we get home OK. Slight bit of stress. Now you have a sibling who is with you. And she said yeah I'll help and then she's nowhere to be found. And then you look out you know your window or look over the counter is your chopping all the vegetables and there's your worthless sister not helping you but just sitting and listening when you've got all this work to do I'd be frustrated. I'm just saying as I look at this story and I begin to try and put myself in it this would be a frustrating circumstance to me. Right maybe some of you can't relate to doing that you

know preparing a meal because you've never cooked anything in your entire life OK but you have a job right and there's a bunch of coworkers and there's a big order that needs to be met and it's got to go out today and through your guys are sitting around playing video games on their phone while you're running around as hard and as fast as you can trying to make sure the orders ready to go out might be a little frustrated. Maybe maybe just a little annoyed. We're quick to throw Martha under the bus. But I think most of us if we're honest and we were in her position. Would probably be more of a Martha than a Mary I am not trying to say that's good. I am trying to say it's quick to look at Martha and be like car if she would just figured it out go see that Jesus is for you why would you miss that opportunity. We have that opportunity every day. And most of us gets so busy that we miss those moments now. As Jesus looked at this I want I want you to look again at this story I want you to take a look. Open up your Bible look I like physically look at the story OK does Jesus ever reprimand Martha for preparing the meal does he ever say you know you shouldn't work. You should just spend all your time at my feet no. I don't see it in there anywhere. What you say you're sweating all of these details and Mary. Soaking in my presence. Now I don't think I've been or I grew up around a lot of good cooks OK My grandma was a great cook. My my step mom is an amazing cook dad if you listen make sure you tell her that K. I said something really nice about her. There also but so many times at family gatherings I don't think they enjoy the family at all right and it's not because they don't care about us it's because they spend so much time sweating over every single meal that they never really get to come play the game right they never get to to hang out they never get to enjoy. You know the company because they're so busy sweating all the details trying to make every meal perfect and most of us would be just as happy with a ham sandwich as we would with something else. Right and honestly I feel like this is one of the lessons from Arthur here and it's not do half hearted work it's that sometimes we try and make things more than they need to be and then we get hung up on the details and we forget what's most important it's easy to relate to Martha because most of us if we're not heard today have been in the past and will be again in the future. To get stressed out about everything can I tell you that one of my the most frustrating things about American culture to me is that we like use business is some sort of badge of honor. Right and we try and one up each other with how busy our lives are all the time right oh you have to do that well you should hear my day I've got to do THIS THIS THIS THIS THIS THIS THIS THIS AND THIS Well what I'm here to tell you is maybe you should cut out ten of those things just flat out I'm not saying don't work I'm not saying don't raise your children I'm just saying there's a lot of things that are optional that we make. Not optional. And we allow busying this to define us I'm going to talk to you moms for just a second OK. Some of you are defined by your children's schedule that's not OK It's not I'm not saying don't take your kids places don't Don't mistake what I'm saying I'm not saying don't give them opportunities to be involved in sports this is not an anti sports sermon so if you can just take a deep breath All right I'm not saying that but if your life is defined by your child's schedule. Then it's being defined by the wrong thing and maybe just maybe we need to find some margin in our time to let the right things define it we tell people all the time in premarital counseling we tell people all the time as we as we go through these things the best thing you can do for your kids is to show them what a great godly marriage looks like so. If you're if your identity is defined by your children schedule is there room for your spouse and there. It's a big deal that's not just a lady thing men. Make it happen. You want to be the leader of your home start there is your life defined. Just by runnin kids from place to place to place. Or is your life defined by what God would have you do not some of us were like well I have to work because we have to pay the bills and all of those kind of things I'm not saying don't work I'm not saying don't parent I'm saying what defines you are you finding time. To sit at the feet of Jesus. And so him in. That should be priority one I don't usually do this unless I'm making fun of her which is not a good thing but. When I talk about my wife for a second Bless my heart a couple weeks ago I hate Facebook with everything in me but I bless my heart the other day when I jumped on there to deal with somebody who was complaining to me through a Facebook message. When I see my wife post a picture of her Bible open and a cup of coffee next to it and it says taking time out of the day to do or some things have to be done and some things have to be

done I can't remember exactly how she worded it but my wife the mother of our four children who never stopped moving carve some time out of the middle of her day to make sure she had time with the maker of heaven and earth. And that is amazing to me I want that for her I want our children to see that I want her to connect with Jesus and she did that she carved time out of her day. How does that look in your life. I cannot tell you the amount of times as a pastor I've had come people come to me and be like I just can't I don't feel Jesus. I don't know I feel distant from God. And one of the first three questions I usually ask is something like this. Wins the last time you spend some personal time in prayer and Bible reading. And inevitably this happens. Well and then sometimes I get an excuse of like well I'm just so busy and sometimes people are honest and they'll say I honestly don't remember how can we expect to feel close to God When we never spend time with him when we've allowed all of the business of life to make it so we never spend time with God except maybe you know an hour and a half on a Sunday morning. But how would we would never expect that if we spent an hour and a half a week with our children. We probably wouldn't feel that close to them right. Some of you know what that's like is you have to travel and you have to be really really intentional when you get home about spending time with your wife and kids so that that connection stays important. Some of you are in an incredibly busy season of life and there's no denying that you've got a lot of demands on your time between work and your kids or your whatever you're in a busy season of life so are you intentional about carving time out for Jesus because you and I both know if you just hope to get to it some time in your day it'll never happen. It will never happen if you just hope maybe when I get ten minutes. And then I'll spend some time with you that will never happen those of you who are morning people get up fifteen minutes earlier and spend some time with Jesus. I am not a morning person if I try to do that in the morning I would just wind up asleep on my Bible OK So the way it is at night or in the afternoon some of you are morning people or night people you're just like a two in the afternoon person. Make some time. When can you connect with God when you can actually relate to him the story here isn't don't work the story here is simply Martha don't get lost in all of this extra stuff and forget what's most important it's amazing if you actually just back off from that small little section of scripture for a second and you look back to the end of chapter nine all the way through the chapter eleven of Luke and you just kind of do an overview of it some of you right now are doing that and you're looking at the headings what's Jesus doing as in this portion of Scripture anybody. For. Foretells us death there's all kinds of prices I just want you to look for just a second at the end of chapter nine Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship. And then at the beginning of Chapter ten he sends out his disciples and teaches them what to do what to expect when things go bad when things go well what happens then they come back and he gives thanks for them then he teaches them on the great commandment and then he teaches about the Good Samaritan about who your neighbor really is then there's this story and then he teaches them how to pray. So really the context of this story Jesus is teaching how to be a follower of Jesus Jesus is teaching them how to be disciples and right in the middle of teaching them how to be disciples there's this story about how getting lost in the details isn't enough about how being busy and working and then complaining when people don't help you do those things isn't enough about how we need this soak in some time with Jesus in the middle of all of that do you think that's an accident that this story lands right here in the Bible I don't I think if you want to be a follower of Jesus then you need to begin to evaluate what's most important and in the middle of your stress make sure you are carving out time for him. That's what being a disciple looks like it doesn't mean just shutting everything off and never doing anything it doesn't mean not going to work it doesn't mean not having people who are over for dinner it doesn't mean not taking your kids to hockey practice or whatever it is that you do it doesn't mean any of that it means in the middle of all of that we're carving out time for what's most important That's what looking like a disciple of Jesus is all about this story is here for a reason. Jesus is teaching us how to be a disciple. There are few things as damaging to the Christian life is trying to work for Jesus without taking time to be with Jesus. And many of you as you follow Jesus for any amount of time have experienced that we got lost in the ministry. And we forgot to have a relationship and I want you to understand that if you get lost in the details of even doing something

is great is the ministry God calls you to do but you get lost in the details of that and forget to spend time with Jesus himself you are missing the most important ingredient and that ministry will not continue it will there will come a breaking point where your your inner Gee your charisma it will not be enough because of Jesus isn't in there. It's not. Enough Mary forgot for a second or Martha I'm sorry forgot for a second the words of Jesus when he talks about without me you can do nothing Mary chooses a part that can't be taken from her you know that's the amazing thing about it when you spend time with Jesus and you really commune with him you're in His word you're praying you're listening you're doing all of these things nobody can take you away from that like nobody can take that experience away from you. As God speaks to you as he as he as he talks with you as you have those moments nobody nobody can take that away right we talk about it all the time people can argue with your theology till they're blue in the face. Nobody can argue with your story because yours. Is what happened for you so as you hear Jesus as you talk with him if you spend time with him they can't take that. Away from you. Martha's problem is not that she had too much to do but she that she allowed all of that stuff to distract her from what was most important I want you to turn to John Chapter twelve you're still a Luke John is the next book over John Chapter twelve is a cool thing to me as we talk about an extraordinary God I know this isn't one of those stories it's like fire comes down from heaven or you know one guy defeats in a whole army all by himself but this is amazing to me as we talk about the extraordinary of God in the midst of everyday life OK John Chapter twelve verse one. John Chapter twelve verse one. Six days before Passover celebration began Jesus arrived in Bethany the home of Lazarus the man he had raised from the dead a dinner was prepared in Jesus's honor Martha served and Lazarus was among those who ate with him you know that doesn't sound like much I know it's easy to to really just kind of. Miss what just happened right there. Martha has an experience where she's tot what's most important. Right she's not told to not work she's not told not serve she's not told to do any of those things she's just not Mary has found out what's most important and then the next time we see Martha serving a meal she serves the meal. There's no mention of Mary in the kitchen here if you keep reading you'll see or this is a story where Mary comes in and annoyance the feet of Jesus with oil. Mary's absolutely still right in that same place where she's at the feet of Jesus which basically you see her every time you see her and scriptures at the feet of Jesus. This time marches not complaining just serves them you. Spend some time in the company of Jesus. And that be really easy to just read over except I want you to understand that it really seems evident to me based on those two stories Martha's got a big meal and she's stressed about the meal and she's focusing on her sister instead of on Jesus in one story. And then on the next meal. Martha's got to make a big meal only this time seemingly. She's figured out where her focus should be Martha serves the meal without complaint she's not called out none of that stuff happens this time. You know what that is. That's growth that's somebody having something pointed out to them and then allowing God to do something about it in their life and not repeating the same mistake. That's what we're supposed to do. That is extraordinary that is God growing in somebody I know I can I'm not trying to make this too big a deal I'm just simply saying we see Mary over reacting and focusing on the one story in the next story she's doing the exact same thing I just believe her heart's totally different that's amazing that means. It's OK to work. It's OK to be busy it's OK to serve it's OK to do all of those things. The important ingredient is that in that is making sure our heart's in the right place. So here's what we're going to do we're going to in this time I know some of you in this place you maybe never heard Jesus before you never you've never met him maybe you've heard people talk about him but you never chosen him and I'm going to give you a moment in just a second to offer your life to him and that's important and we're going to we're going to do that but here's here's the next piece some of you in this place are lost in the details of your business there's no other way to say it you've got a lot going on some of it is because you've made some bad decisions. And you just have too much going on. Some of it for some of you maybe that's not it at all maybe you're just your life is in a place where it's just busy that's not. The problem. The problem and that only comes when we allow that business to distract us from what is most important and that is our relationship with Jesus now I know the temptation I know some of you have already

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been thinking about it man I know somebody who needs to hear this. I'm going to get a copy of this one and give it to my husband right or whatever no it's not how we roll What is God speaking to you. Some of you in here it's been too long since you carve time out on your own to connect with Jesus this morning it's eleven forty five I want you to take some time you don't have to get kids you don't got to go pick him up for fifteen minutes. When you take some time carve out some time with Jesus.