

## **Christmas Conspiracy Responsibility Versus Relationship**

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***The conspiracy: aim your attention at the wrong targets...***

*Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless – a miserable business! (Eccl. 4:7-8)*

***The revolution: aim your attention at the important relationships...***

- ***Devoted time with God.***

*As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. 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!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)*

- ***It's listening before working*** – "She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said." (v. 39)
- ***It's attention without distraction*** – "But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. 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!" (v. 40)
- ***It's the important over the urgent*** – "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (vv. 41-42)

☛ ***Caution: Sometimes we get distracted from enjoying the best by engaging the good***

- ***Devoted time with people*** – "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Rom. 12:10)

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. (Col. 4:5)*

*"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28b-31)*