



WHAT YOU WANT.....
ISN'T WHAT YOU NEED

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**There is a big difference in what you want
versus what you need in your life**

NEEDS:

- **→ family**
- **→ health**
- **→ income**
- **→ personal relationship w/GOD**

WANTS:

- **→ money**
- **→ fame**
- **→ recognition**
- **→ what's pleasing to your eyes**

**LET'S LOOK AT TWO SEPARATE STORIES IN
THE BIBLE CONCERNING WANTS AND NEEDS**

John 3:1-2 King James Version

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

The Bible introduces us to Nicodemus

HE IS FAMOUS FOR BEING MENTIONED IN THE NT,

BUT WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

→ He was a Pharisee

→ He was a “ruler of the Jews”

This meant that he held a position of power and authority of high rank

→ He was either the leading official or leading teacher (John 3:10) of Israel who was authorized/accepted as such by the people

- He was apparently wealthy, as evidenced by the amount spent on Jesus' burial (John 19:39)
- He was a silent at Jesus' trial

**THE BIBLE CLEARLY STATES
HE CAME TO JESUS AT NIGHTTIME**

BUT WHY???

FEAR!!!!

- He was afraid others would see him**
- He was afraid that he would lose credibility with this friends**

HOW MANY DOES THIS DESCRIBE TODAY??

**HOW MANY NEED JESUS IN THEIR LIVES, BUT WANT
TO DO IT IN SECRET??**

Nicodemus speaks on behalf of the religionists

- look at the words “we know”**
- He had heard of Jesus’ miracles**
- He believed God was with him**
- He acknowledged Jesus as a teacher, but not the one true Messiah.....yet**

**NICODEMUS WANTED TO KNOW IF JESUS
WAS EXACTLY WHO HE SAYS
HE WAS JESUS WAS ABOUT TO TELL HIM
WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR**

John 3:3-8 King James Version

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

**NICODEMUS DIDNT RECOGNIZE HIS REAL NEED
UNTIL HE WAS WITH JESUS!!!!**

He didn't need religion → he was a Pharisee

He didn't need acclaim → he was a ruler of the Jews

Deuteronomy 30:19 King James Version

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Titus 3:5 King James Version

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1 Peter 1:23 King James Version

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**Jesus' response clearly confuses Nicodemus,
who is still thinking of physical rebirth**

**Jesus makes it clear and not confusing to
make him understand the truth**

**CHRIST WILL ALWAYS GO PAST YOUR WORDS
TO THE REAL PROBLEM!!!!**

**In this story, always remember Christ
was available even at night**

**→ He was/is never too tired for those who come
to him**

1 John 4:13 King James Version

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

1 John 5:6 King James Version

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Romans 8:16 King James Version

**16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,
that we are the children of God:**

**NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE 2ND STORY FOR
OUR MESSAGE**

Luke 10:38-39 King James Version

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Mary, Martha and the Master

- Jesus' journeys often took him to Bethany (about 2 miles from Jerusalem)**
- The home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus**
- Jesus felt comfortable there**

DOES JESUS FEEL COMFORTABLE IN YOUR HOME??

Based on the scripture, Martha is the 1st person seen

→ Jesus loved this family (John 11:5)

→ Since Martha was the one first seen and welcomed Jesus and the disciples, more than likely she was the older sister and responsible for the hospitality of the guests in the home

**WHAT ARE SOME DETAILS THAT WE CAN TAKE
AWAY ABOUT MARTHA AND MARY??**

Martha was a giving person

- She apparently owned a home that was big enough to house her own family, plus Jesus and the disciples**

Martha was a courageous person

→ She stayed devoted to Jesus, even during this time when plenty of people were trying to kill him

Martha was a caring person

→ She was taking care of her sister and brother

Mary was loving and humble

- She sat at God's feet, she did not sit next to him or in front of him**
- She "heard his word", meaning she was focused on Jesus and did not get distracted by anything else**

**MARY WANTED AND NEEDED
GOD'S WORD IN HER LIFE**

WHAT ABOUT MARTHA??

Luke 10:40 King James Version

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

**word “cumbered” (Greek word perispao)
means to be distracted**

MARTHA NEEDED GOD'S WORD IN HER LIFE AS WELL

BUT WHAT DID SHE WANT TO DO??

COMPLAIN!!!!!!

On the surface, she has a valid complaint:

- Jesus and the disciples had to be fed**
- Other responsibilities may have been pressing**
- She felt responsible for all the guests needs**

BEWARE THE EMPTINESS.....OF BUSY-NESS!!!!

Martha had lost sight of her priority

Jesus always comes first in our lives

Luke 8:14 King James Version

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Luke 21:34 King James Version

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

2 Timothy 2:4 King James Version

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

**DO YOU SEE WHAT WORK WITHOUT WORSHIP
DID TO MARTHA???**

- **Caused her to be upset**
- **Caused her to talk instead of listen**
- **Caused her to be critical of her sister**
- **Caused her to doubt the love of Christ**
- **Caused her to be discouraged**

Lamentations 3:39 King James Version

39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Ecclesiastes 2:11 King James Version

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:18 King James Version

18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

**HOW DOES JESUS RESPONDS TO
MARTHA'S QUESTION?**

**JUST LIKE NICODEMUS, HE TELLS MARTHA
WHAT SHE NEEDED TO HEAR!!!!**

Luke 10:41-42 King James Version

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

What was the one thing?
To sit and listen to the Word of God

- Worship of our Lord**
- Too often we leave this out**
- Labor must be balanced by listening to Jesus**

**Jesus repetition of Martha's name shows his
concern and love for her**

Mark 1:35 King James Version

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Acts 17:11 King James Version

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Psalm 5:3 King James Version

3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

**WE'VE NOW SEEN A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE
STORIES OF NICODEMUS, MARY AND MARTHA**

WHAT YOU WANT.....ISN'T WHAT YOU NEED

**NICODEMUS AND MARY RECOGNIZED WHAT
THEY NEEDED BY LISTENING AND STAYING
CLOSE TO GOD!!!!**

**DON'T FALL INTO MARTHA'S TRAP OF BEING
DISTRACTED AND BUSY-NESS!!!!**

**ASK YOURSELF.....WHAT IS MOST NEEDFUL
IN YOUR LIFE??**

**JUST LIKE MARY DID.....YOU WILL FIND IT BY
LISTENING AT JESUS' FEET!!!!!!**



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