

FOCUS

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1. Increased information,
increased misinformation
 2. Increased tribalism
 3. Increased dissatisfaction
 4. Dilution of Right and Wrong

**The problem isn't that we have
a hard time FOCUSING.
It's that we put too much
FOCUS onto the wrong things.**

Without knowing what's important and having that clear, it's hard to make the choices to truly focus, and to discipline into it. Focus means saying no to certain things, and yes to

MARY & MARTHA

LUKE 10:38-42

38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 40 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."

41 But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42 There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

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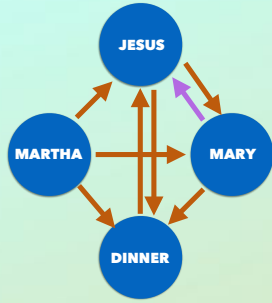
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WHAT'S THE FOCUS?

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What's the Focus



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What is worth concerning yourself over? Make that the priority.

There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.

**Have you discovered it?
Have you discovered what you need to be concerned about?
What you need to be focusing on?**

JOHN 11:20-27

20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. [d] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33

JOHN 11:28-32

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The difference between Mary & Marth

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

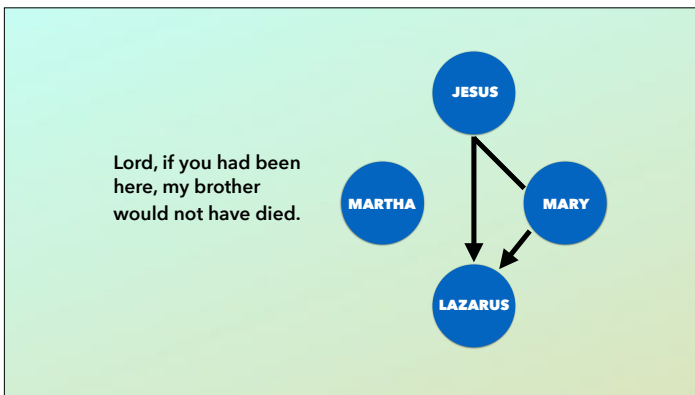
Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.**

<p>FOCUS: Disappointment Emotional Sadness Loss</p> <p>Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.</p>	<p>FOCUS: Emotional Sadness Power and authority of Jesus</p> <p>Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.</p>
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We often find ourselves focusing on what we don't have — on our disappointments, on our frustrations

4. It's the same as when we focus on what we don't have — and what we believe will make us happier. A boyfriend. A child. A wife. A better church. A better job. A better EU. A better government. And these are good — they're noble. Mary and Martha are right, it would be better if Jesus was there.

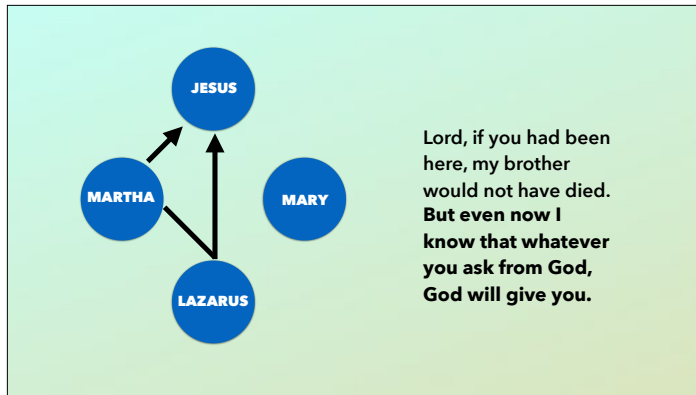
5. But in this instance, Martha, gets the focus right. The difference between their two phrases here is : But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."



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JESUS

JOHN 11:33-35

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

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He doesn't deny the emotional heartache. He doesn't suppress it.
It's okay to cry. It's okay to mourn and to weep. It's okay to sorrow.
But it can't become your focus.

Your emotional state cannot be the focus of your life, or it will cripple you.

JOHN 11

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

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JOHN 11

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

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JESUS' FOCUS
The glory of God
The greater eternity
The bigger picture

This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

"Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

**Do you know what you're living for? If you do, if you practice day to day, committed to Christ, when the time comes to stand — the courage will be there. The strength will be there. But if you choose to deny Christ, if you choose to disappear into this world's value system, you will find yourself lost.

**Know the light by which you walk,
and the way will be made clear.**

**If you know what your life's focus is,
you'll know how to live.**

JOHN 11:40-44

40 "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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**Jesus lifted up his eyes.
Put the focus on God.
So that they may believe
Jesus is Lord.**

**Life's Focus
The supremacy of Christ
The power of God
The light by which we live**

So How?

**Know what you need to be
concerned about**

Ask Jesus to reframe your concerns
in light of God's Kingdom

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1. Know what you need to be concerned about. — that will make you trust in God
 - 2.

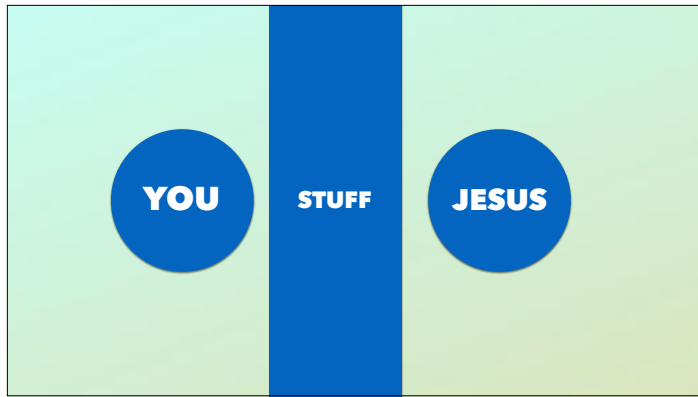
**When difficulties or hardships
become your focus**

It's okay to weep, to mourn, but bring
it back to Christ, and acknowledge
his truth and sovereignty

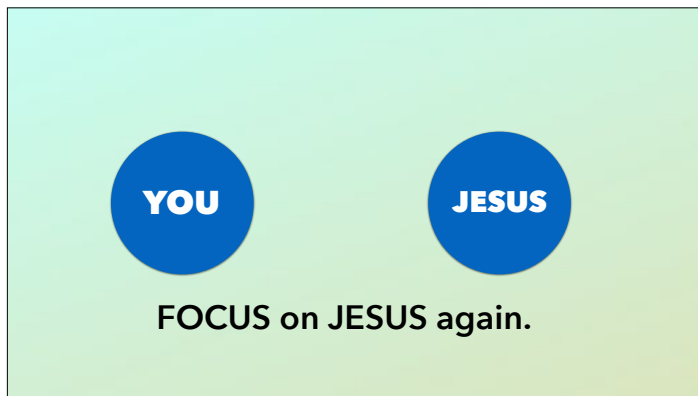
God is as King, where all things are possible, means that even in tragic situations, you can cry out to the eternal God — because he is bigger, greater, and more powerful than us ourselves.

**When you become
consistently distracted**

Walk by his light, and you won't stumble.
Walk in the dark and you'll get lost. Turn
on His Light. Go to his Word. Ask Him to
focus your mind on His Word.



1. Know what you need to be concerned about. — that will make you trust in God
- 2.



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