

## **Pastor's Sermon Devotional Series**

"Balancing Worship and Service: Lessons from Mary and Martha"

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The five-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide are based on the sermon themes. Access the sermon via "Sermon Audio on Demand" on the Redeemer Lutheran Church website at [redeemerfxbg.org](http://redeemerfxbg.org) under Media, then Audio on Demand.

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### **Monday, July 21, 2025**

#### **Balancing Service and Worship** [Luke 10:38-42]

**Devotional:** Reflecting on the story of Mary and Martha highlights the importance of balancing service with worship in our Christian lives. Martha's eagerness to serve was commendable, but Jesus gently pointed out that sitting at His feet, like Mary, represents "the good portion." Today, think about how you divide your time between doing for God and simply being with Him. Are you so focused on serving that you forget to nurture your relationship with Him? Take a moment to rest quietly in God's presence and feel His love surround you. Remember, your value is based on who you are, not on what you do.

### **Tuesday, July 22, 2025**

#### **The Power of Listening** [James 1:19-25]

**Devotional:** Mary's decision to sit at Jesus' feet and listen was commended by our Lord. In today's hurried world, the skill of genuinely listening to God's voice can be overlooked. James advises us to be "quick to hear, slow to speak." Today, try practicing active listening during your prayer time. Instead of rushing to talk, leave room for silence. What might God be communicating to you? As you read His Word, don't just skim through it but deeply absorb its message. Remember, meaningful service begins with a heart tuned into God's voice.

### **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

#### **Love in Action** [1 John 3:16-18]

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**Devotional:** The sermon emphasizes that while hearing about God's love is essential, demonstrating it through actions is even more powerful. John encourages us to love "in deed and truth." Think about practical ways to show God's love to those around you—whether by easing their burdens, listening carefully, or meeting a tangible need. As you serve today, remember you're not merely doing tasks but offering the world a window into God's heart.

### **Thursday, July 24, 2025**

#### **The Presence of God in Worship** [Psalm 95:1-7]

**Devotional:** Our passage emphasizes the significance of corporate worship, reminding us that Christ is with us when we gather. The Psalmist invites us to "come into his presence with thanksgiving." Today, consider your attitude towards worship. Do you see it as a duty or a joy? Remember, worship is where we meet the living God. Whether in a church or during personal devotion, intentionally enter God's presence with gratitude and anticipation. Allow His presence to refresh and renew your spirit.

### **Friday, July 25, 2025**

#### **Faith Amidst Struggles** [Romans 8:35-39]

**Devotional:** Martha's unwavering faith, even in the face of her brother's death, reminds us that true faith endures even the most challenging hardships. Paul reassures us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Today, consider the challenges you're experiencing. Could these difficulties be chances to strengthen your faith? Keep in mind that, just as Jesus was with Mary and Martha during their grief, He is present with you in your struggles. Let Paul's message resonate within you – you are more than a conqueror through Christ, who loves you.