

LOOK! A DISTRACTION.

Paul told us that an awareness of the devils clever schemes is what stops him from gaining an advantage over us.

2Co 2:11 (NASB) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

The enemy is a defeated foe. It is illegal for him to harm God's people. BUT, criminals are criminals because they violate the law.

Thats why we have what is called, "Law Enforcement."

If we give the enemy opportunity the will take advantage of us.

Eph 4:27 (NASB) and do not give the devil an opportunity.

If the enemy of life fails to stop you he will seek to distract you.

If he distracts you you will arrive at the wrong destination but you will have made good time getting there

think about it - what a shame it would be to work hard become successful at something we were never called to

to spend our life completing an assignment that was never assigned to us to take responsibility for something that was never ours to respond to

like the pastor of a mega church who never entered the ministry because he got distracted by a business opportunity early in life

or the CEO of a large corporation who never started his business because he became distracted by something that was supposed to have been his hobby but became his occupation

*story of greatest military mind

the enemy of life understands the power of distraction which is why he will utilize this trick against you

like a magician who gets you to focus on his right hand so you failed to see the left hand - he uses your ability to focus against you

the definition of distract is - to turn aside to divert to draw or direct one's attention to a different object or in a different direction at the same time to stir up or confused with conflicting emotions or motives

see some folks think that to be distracted means to lose focus - and that is actually not true - you can be keenly focused and still be distracted by becoming focused on the wrong thing

Luk 10:38-40 (KJV) 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. [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.

Here is the perfect example of why I like to read several translations and actually prefer the NAS although the KJV is poetic much of its languages outdated and lost to our current culture

Example how many of you use the word cumbered in your every day conversation?

I don't

I seldom tell someone when they ask me how I'm doing that I feel cumbered

Dude! I'm totally cumbered about today

Luk 10:40 (NASB) But **Martha was distracted** with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

Martha was missing the real deal

The opportunity / the importation because she was distracted. what was her distraction?

Was it something evil or sinful no it was a big dinner for an honored guest is cooking a big dinner for an honored guest wrong of course not but it was still a distraction why

The meal wasn't the main thing Jesus was not in the house to eat

Joh 4:31-34 (NASB) Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." [32] But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." [33] So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" [34] Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

He was there to heal he was there to impart he was there to teach Jesus was in the house and Martha was distracted

Look a distraction

Jesus was in the house and Martha was missing it but she did not know she was missing it she was so focused on what she felt needed to get done that she complained that Mary was not helping her

Luk 10:40-42 (TPT) But Martha became **exasperated** by finishing the **numerous** household chores in preparation for her guests, so she interrupted Jesus and said, "Lord, don't you think it's unfair that my sister left me to do all the work by myself? You should tell her to get up and help me." [41] The Lord answered her, "Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these **many distractions**? Are they really that important? [42] Mary has discovered the **one thing** most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is **undistracted**, and I won't take this privilege from her."

Luk 10:42 (NLT) There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Martha was not distracted because she had lost focus she was intently focused but on the wrong thing

whenever a good thing replaces a God thing it becomes a distraction

are we so much different than Martha?

- how many times has Jesus been in our house and we missed it
- Jesus has been in the house during worship but we miss it because we are thinking of what we gotta do to get lunch after church

- Jesus has been in the house during prayer but we miss it because we are thinking about the to do list we must complete this coming week
- Jesus was in the house during the ministry of the word but we miss it because our mind wanders to some far off fantasy land

Look! A Distraction

One of the synonyms of the word distraction is entertain

Bishop Miller once told me that our culture has become so entertainment-based that we can hardly go a minute without something to amuse us we are an entertainment culture

Actually the entertainment industry is about the only industry we still have in our culture

The church, Bishop said, has a large part come to mirror the world and is entertainment based

- churches build their children's ministry not to educate but to entertain
- youth ministries are not designed to build character and integrity but to amuse and keep amused
- and sanctuary has become concert halls built to keep the senses occupied

Bishop and I were alone in the green room so he was speaking freely. He told me of one church - a church each of you would know well - that had become totally and completely entertainment focused.

When I asked why - he said, so that the people will never realize that nothing spiritual is actually happening. No impartation, no illumination, no spiritual growth and development.

Are we so easily distracted?

If we're not careful we will go through life like a five year old goes through a Toys "R" Us store chasing every fad every wind every doctrine and becoming unstable in all of our ways

we must take a moment shut off the distraction and ask God help me to see what is really important

Psa 27:4 (NLT) The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD’s perfections and meditating in his Temple.

Kings are very busy people, actually all of us are busy.

Life requires we do many things and I’m not saying we let those things go undone - but do we focus on the ONE THING. Or are we distracted by the many things.

Where ever focus goes energy flows - control your life by controlling your focus.

Everyone say, “ONE THING.”

One of the most remarkable things to me about Jesus was his refusal to be distracted

I believe that this was just as important as HIS anointing; HIS wisdom; and HIS power HE refused to be diverted or distracted

HE refused to be distracted by the devil by HIS disciples or even by HIS mama

Joh 7:3-8 (TPT) So Jesus’ brothers came to advise him, saying, “Why don’t you leave the countryside villages and go to Judea where the crowds are, so that your followers can see your miracles? [4] No one can see what you’re doing here in the backwoods of Galilee. How do you expect to be successful and famous if you do all these things in secret? Now is your time—go to Jerusalem, come out of hiding, and show the world who you are!” [5] **His brothers were pushing him**, even though they didn’t yet believe in him as the Savior. [6] Jesus responded, “My time of being unveiled hasn’t yet come, but any time is a suitable opportunity for you *[you chase every opportunity]* to gain man’s approval. [7] The world can’t hate you, *[cause you do the same things they do]* but it does me, for I am exposing their evil deeds. [8] You can go ahead and celebrate the feast without me—my appointed time has not yet come.”

In yet another place

Mat 16:21-23 (NASB) From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. [22] Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." [23] But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

How can I discern distraction?

1. **When comfort and convenience are more important than obedience.**

In a culture prone to convenience we are easily distracted by opportunities to take the "easy road."

But the price of greatness has always been sacrifice.

Nobody can become great at anything - not even in the kingdom without sacrifice

2. **When your energy is consumed. You become frustrated, exasperated and exhausted by the many things that need to get done.**

Focusing the right thing, that ONE thing energizes you to get all the things done. - Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...again think about the shame it would be to spend the time, effort and energy needed to succeed at something you were never called to

Matthew 6:33 NASB But seek first [coming before all others in time, order and priority] HIS kingdom and HIS righteousness, and all these things will be added to you

Rabbit! The focused never confuse business with effectiveness; but the distracted think that by being busy they are being effective.

The key to success in life, in the Kingdom, Spiritually as well as naturally is.....Let's say it together.....FOCUS

The pathway to to frustration, exasperation and exhaustion is....Let's say it together....DISTRACTION.

Look! A Distraction

3. When the appeal of the moment is to my flesh not to my spirit

Col 3:2 (TPT) Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.

One question we would do well to ask ourselves is, ***Am I becoming successful at something I was never called to?***

I don't want to arrive at the end of my life and discover that I have done well at the wrong assignment.

We, of course are in this world, but it is as Jesus said,

Joh 17:16 (TPT) For they no longer belong to this world any more than I do.

So lets keep our focus on eternal things, important things

- Doing the will of GOD for our lives
- Focusing on Kingdom work
- Loving the unloved
- Touching the untouched
- Reaching the unreached.
- And looking for the return of our soon coming King

Look! Its Jesus!