

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

Have you ever worked hard to prepare some food and then found it was not up to scratch? Share stories of cooking disasters!

Worship

Read Colossians 1: 15 - 23

- Share one thought from this reading that inspires worship.
- Does it bring any hymns or songs to mind? Read or sing some together.

Word

Read Amos 8: 11 - 12

- If people stop listening, does God stop speaking? What is the effect on individuals and on society if we do not hear God's word?

Read Luke 10: 38 - 41

Here are some possible readings of this story:

1. Contemplation is better than action
2. The only thing that matters is our spiritual life
3. The best action is first inspired by spending time listening to Jesus
4. Women, as well as men, can act as disciples, (who typically sat at the feet of their rabbi)
5. Making simple one-pot meals allows everyone, including the cook, to join in with the talking and listening
 - To what degree is each of these supported by the text and the context?
 - Which ones are helpful and which unhelpful?
 - Suggest any other interpretations that come to you.

Many things may be barriers that get in the way of our relationship with God including:

1. Being very busy
2. Feeling emotionally overwhelmed by our circumstances
3. A belief that we already know what God is saying

4. A lack of a Bible-reading habit
5. Giving my relationship with God too low a priority
6. The view that focusing on MY relationship with Jesus can make me rather self-centred
7. A limited understanding of how to read the Bible
8. A belief that God is not really interested in the details of my life
 - Which of these are relevant to you?
 - Discuss how to get over the barriers to developing your spiritual life.

Response

Try praying the Lord's prayer every day this week. Pray it slowly and carefully. Allow it to shape your approach to any other prayer you may offer. Reflect on the meaning of the prayer using your journal if you keep one.