

When God Says...

Part 5: Simplify

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Three Quietly Convicting Scriptures

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about *many things*, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” – Luke 10:41-42

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, *let us throw off everything that hinders* and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. – Hebrews 12:1-2a

Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to *make it your ambition to lead a quiet life*: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. – 1 Thessalonians 4:10b-12

Powerful Words: Quiet Uncluttered Humble Simple

When God says simplify, he’s calling us to:

Simple life

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Simple conflict

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”
– Matthew 18:15

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” – Matthew 5:23-24

Simple finances

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. – Proverbs 11:24

Simple words

Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. – Ecclesiastes 5:2

Seven Words for This Fall at CTK

Thanks • Yes • No • Enough • Help • Sorry • Ask

Simple message

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – 1 John 4:10

What will you have to release in order to live a quiet, uncluttered, humble, simple life?

Next Steps

A new season of classes and activities at CTK will be starting soon. But like Martha, many of us have created such busy lives for ourselves that we've left no time to nurture our souls, our need for community, and our relationship with God.

What could you simplify in your life in order to "choose what is better" like Mary? Start planning and praying about that today so you can say yes to better things in the coming weeks.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What did you do on Labor Day? Why?
- 2) Do you think it's possible to live a simple life today? Why or why not, and how?
- 3) Which of the areas listed in the outline is the hardest for you to live out? What can you do today to honor God in that area?
- 4) Grant listed seven words he's going to preach this fall. Which one are you looking forward to? Is there one you are dreading?
- 5) Read the opening scriptures (Luke 10:41-42, Hebrews 12:1-2, and 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12). What is God saying to you? What is God saying to your group?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and in the coming week?