

“Tuning In”

A sermon by Pastor Steve Easterday-McPadden
for FUMC Grand Junction, Sunday, March 7, 2021

This sermon can be listened to on the FUMCGJ
website: <https://www.fumcgj.org/sermons/>

Scripture Text:

Luke 10:38-42 [NLT]

OPENING

(*Play with the theme of “National Day of Unplugging” – Fri, March 5, 2021 – and the crazy experience at Men’s Study at Four Winds on Friday.*)

SERMON THOUGHTS

- How difficult it is to “unplug” today
→ Leads us to a closer look at the Scripture passage for this morning

TO THE SCRIPTURES

- (*Playful...*) We tend to sterilize the Scriptures, you know? We strip them of their very real human emotional content, don’t we?

I mean, when we hear the passage read for us a few minutes ago, we probably envision Martha nodding submissively at Jesus gentle chastisement and humbly moving toward Mary who smiles – just a little triumphantly at her sister the way sisters do! – and pats the floor next to her, inviting Martha into

the “deeper life club” she has so obviously discovered, right?!

But if I were the director of a play based on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem in Luke, I’d have Martha end this exchange with a visceral, “Ugh! Men!” Can’t you just hear that?! 😊

- All playfulness and theatrics aside, Jesus *does* chastise Martha gently, but not to minimize her contributions to the dinner party or to express ungratefulness for who she is.

In the context of the message for today, Jesus points out to Martha – and those gathered around Him...because there were probably many gathered around Him – that she needs to “unplug” from the things that have her attention at the moment and “tune in” to what God is offering through Jesus right then.

SERMON THOUGHTS

- And that’s really the message for today. It’s a simple one that can be captured in two questions, that Anna did a GREAT job introducing in her Children’s Message:
 1. What has our attention most of the time, from which we would do well to “unplug”? (*Name a few things here...*)
 2. And what is it that God is offering us through Jesus right now which we would do well to tune in to? (*Name a few things here...*)

TRANSITION to Holy Communion

- Parallels b/w the “dinner party” in today’s Scripture lesson and holy communion that we celebrate now...

Words of Institution followed by this call-and-response:

Pastor: In remembrance of God’s mighty and loving acts in Jesus Christ, let us offer ourselves as living sacrifices, in union with Christ’s offering for us, bringing and sharing His light with all the world.

People: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and common cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Pastor: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

All: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Come Forward and Share the Elements