

Sermon, July 21, 2019

**Colossians 1:15-28 & Luke 10:38-42**  
**“Drinking Deep: The Main Thing”**

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What was your favorite subject in school? It seems most of us have a subject or subjects that we really liked and those we didn't. Sometimes it's because of the subject matter, or the teacher that taught it. But most of us have subjects that we like more than others. We tend to do better in those subjects, which makes me wonder if we like them because they are easier for us or if we have an aptitude for them and so we do better in those subjects, or we are more interested in them and we work harder at them.

I know for me, I loved history classes, English and literature classes. Mathematics and science, not so much. Some of that might be it's just not how my brain worked. Although I think with at least higher math because I didn't catch on early, I didn't have the foundation to do well. And that doesn't mean they aren't important subjects, they are. It just wasn't where my mind worked.

It's for that reason I'm fascinated to see how scientists and mathematicians work things out to come up with theories and help explain this incredible world that God has created for us. As Christians, we don't ignore science, we embrace it. We believe if God is true, then the world He created will bear that out even under the greatest scrutiny.

Consider something we often take for granted, unless you are falling gravity. Science defines gravity as a force which tries to pull two objects toward one another. I like that definition, a force that tries to pull objects toward one another. It's almost romantic when you think about it.

So anything that has mass has a gravitational pull. And the larger the mass, the greater the gravitational pull. It's what, by God's design, keeps us from flying off the planet. It's what keeps our planet in orbit at the exact correct distance from the sun so that we can sustain life, have water, grow plants.

We know that the moon has a gravitational pull. God places the moon at the exact spot so that it can affect the tides of the earth. There is a scene in that great theological masterpiece, *Bruce Almighty*, a movie about a man who is given all of God's power. At one point in order to have the perfect romantic evening with his girlfriend, he pulls the moon closer so that it is large and full in the night time sky.

Bruce, of course, will also learn that there are consequences of every action. Do you remember what I said about the more mass something has or the closer it is, the greater its' gravitational pull? Later Bruce learns about the tidal waves and destruction he has accidentally caused. Gravity is a big deal.

As I was reading our two Scriptures for this morning, my mind kept going back to the idea of the things that have mass, and the greater their mass, the greater their gravitational pull. Our Scriptures this morning hints at the idea that what is true for us in the physical world is also true for us in the spiritual world. Physically, the more mass something has, the greater its' gravitational pull. This is also true for us spiritually. The more mass something has, the greater its' gravitational pull on our spirits and hearts, as well.

We are starting a new series this morning called Drinking Deep, looking at wisdom from God's point of view. Enriching ourselves by drinking deep from God's wisdom. We begin here with a question of great importance. What has the greatest mass in our life? Because whatever has the greatest mass in your life will have the greatest gravitational pull on your soul. For instance, if you have a great center mass of anger in your life, that anger is going to pull at you and effect everything you do. We all know someone who is just angry all the time. Always looking for a fight, always looking for the next disappointment. They have anger at the center of their lives, and it pulls everything to it. Some of us have a large mass of the past that pulls everything in our lives. It could be something bad from your past that affects you. But for some,

it's a very good thing. But they are in the past, and it pulls at you so much that you can't see what's good in front of you, only what you've lost or given up. Addictions can have that type of gravitational pull. Or the addiction of someone in your family and the worry and concern you have becomes the focal point of everything that you do. Sin can do the same.

Take a look at your life, and in a moment of honesty, I want you to ask yourself what is at the center of my life, what has the largest mass? Work, money, worry, family, what pulls you?

This is the situation we see in our Gospel lesson this morning. Mary and Martha. One of the things I've encountered over the years is, even though Jesus chastises her, the incredible amount of sympathy and empathy people have for Martha. Well, somebody has to get the food ready, somebody ought to be cleaning up. Hospitality was at the center of Middle Eastern homes. Martha was doing all the work.

Now all of that is right. But it misses the point. It's not that what Martha was doing wasn't good or important. But she was missing Jesus. Her hospitality, the food, the cleaning, all important in that day. But it had become the center mass, it had become a gravitational pull on Martha to the point where she missed Jesus. She didn't really see Him or hear Him. Jesus was not at the center of Martha's existence.

But look at Mary. I don't think Mary, despite Martha's older sister protestations to the contrary, was lazy or ignored her duties. It was simply that Jesus had become for her the largest element in the room, the greatest mass. She found herself pulled irresistibly to Him. Willing to let food and cleaning and being a good host aside in order to draw close to Him.

Mary had discovered the great wisdom that Paul writes about in our New Testament lesson. It's an early hymn really about the centrality of Jesus. Not just in theory or practice. But that Jesus is at the center of heaven, the center of the universe, the center of salvation. He is the center of our new life.

It's here, I believe, where we in the church today so often stumble. We have lost the greatest and yet simplest wisdom God gives us. Jesus is to be at the center of our lives. He is to have the greatest mass so that we find ourselves drawn to Him. It's not the church or its' activities that are to be at the center of our lives. Jesus Christ and our ministries and activities are about resetting, helping us draw near so that Jesus Himself draws us in. When we allow Jesus to be at the center, have that great mass, He pulls us to Him, and by extension, pulls us away from the things in life that have had such a pull on us. The more I allow Jesus to pull me in, the more He pulls me

away from anger, even that diffused anger whose cause we can't put a finger on. The more He pulls me to Him, the more He pulls me away from me, and the less selfish I become. The more He pulls me to Him, the more He pulls me away from my finances, and my concern becomes not how can I get more, but how can I make sure everything I have is giving God glory? The more God pulls me away from my anxiety if that's where the gravitational pull is, the more He pulls me toward peace. The more He pulls me away from fear, the more He pulls me towards courage. The more He pulls me away from sin, the more He pulls me to holiness and righteousness.

So, again, let me ask you that question, what has the center mass in your life. What is exerting the greatest gravitational pull in your life? And are you satisfied with that? Isn't there something deep within you that says *I was made for more than this*. When you heard that passage from Colossians, wasn't there a sense of rightness fell on your heart?

In the end, we all must ask ourselves *will we be Martha flitting from one thing to the next depending on what has the greatest pull on our lives at that moment, never truly in control, or will we be like Mary? Not wanting to miss Jesus, being pulled toward Him, away from the lesser things in life*. It is with Jesus at the center that we will discover life and wisdom. Amen.