

Short Talk

(SHT160)

Being with Jesus

© Jane Hulme 2019

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “Being with Jesus”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to take time to be with Jesus; listening to Him and talking with Him and ignoring the distractions that seek to draw them away from Him.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Jesus, Prayer, Listening, Distractions
- Biblical references:** Luke 10:38-42
- Lectionary:** Year C – 5th Sunday after Trinity
- Props:** A table that is laid out at the front of church on which your volunteer is going to kneel! A mobile phone, a TV times (or other TV guide), a dog lead, a bar of chocolate and a pair of rubber gloves.
- People:** You need one volunteer to help you. You may wish to choose them and brief them before the service.

.....

Jesus had some special friends called Martha and Mary, whom He used to visit from time to time.

- One day when Jesus came to visit their home, Mary spent time with Him; sitting at His feet and listening to what Jesus had to say.
- Mary did this even though Martha her sister, was running around frantically in the kitchen trying to get a special meal ready for Jesus.
- Mary ignored the distraction of all the food preparation that was going on in the kitchen to give her full attention to Jesus, which would have shocked the people in her day.

When Martha told Jesus that this wasn't right and that Mary should be helping her in the kitchen, Jesus said that what Mary was doing was really good and that He wasn't going to stop her.

Spending time with Jesus; listening to what He has to say and speaking with Him is actually a very important thing for every single follower of Jesus to do,

- however old or young you are.

I wonder when you spend time just being with Jesus without anyone else around.

- I wonder how easy you find it to just be with Jesus and to give Him your full attention.

Sometimes all sorts of things can try and distract us from giving Jesus our attention;

- so I thought that we could look at a few of those distractions today.

Would my volunteer like to come forward? *(Receive volunteer)*

- I would like you to kneel on this table, shut your eyes and try to focus upon Jesus!
(Volunteer does this)

While *N* (name of volunteer) is trying to spend time with Jesus her mobile phone pings *(N opens their eyes. Hand them the mobile phone)*

- One of *N*'s friends is going to have a party and has written all about it on Facebook
- *N* reads what has been written and then tries to go back to her time with Jesus *(N puts down the phone, shuts eyes and assumes a posture of prayer)*

As she starts to listen to talk with Jesus, *N* remembers that her favourite television programme is coming on very soon. *(N opens their eyes and you hand them the TV Times)*

- *N* checks the time of the programme and realises she can have another minute with Jesus. *(N shuts eyes and assumes a posture of prayer)*

Just as *N* settles down again, she hears the dog barking and realises that she had promised to take the dog for a walk. *(N opens their eyes and you hand N the dog lead)*

- *N* decides to take the dog out as soon as she has finished her time with Jesus, but as she kneels down again, *(N shuts eyes and assumes a posture of prayer)* her stomach rumbles and she realises how hungry she is. *(N opens their eyes)*
- Fortunately, she remembers that there is a bar of chocolate in her room, so she reaches for it. *(Hand N the bar of chocolate which they open and begin to eat)*

As she munches on the chocolate and thinks about all the things that she needs to do, *N*'s mother shouts up the stairs and tells *N* that it is her turn to do the washing up! *(Hand N the kitchen gloves, climbs off the table and exits)*

Do you recognise any of those distractions?

- Do you find that when you try and spend time alone with Jesus all sorts of things can distract You from giving Him your full attention?

As it is so important that we spend time listening and speaking with Jesus, let me give you a few tips to help you be like Mary, and ignore the distractions around you.

1st tip: Time of day

- Find a time when you know that you are less likely to be interrupted by other people, and when you aren't meant to be helping your family or watching your favourite television programme.
- That time might be first thing in the morning before you go to school or to work, or it might be later on in the day.

2nd tip: Involve Jesus

- If something comes into your mind, like "I feel hungry" or "I ought to go and walk the dog" or something else, involve Jesus in that thought.
- Talk to Him about what has distracted you and then carry on with listening to Him.

3rd tip: Paper

- If the distraction is something that you know that you need to remember to do, then it can be helpful to have a piece of paper and a pencil with you when you spend time with Jesus.
- Write down the thing that you need to remember and then refocus your attention back upon Jesus.

Time of day, Involve Jesus, Paper are three tips to help you spend good focused time with Jesus each day.

- Let's grow this week in being like Jesus' friend Mary, who gave Jesus her total attention and was blessed by Jesus for doing that.