

# The Gift That You Give Yourself

Part three of the series, "Christmas Survival Guide"

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**Sunday, December 15, 2019 • Pastor Tim Ma**

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' <sup>41</sup>'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>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 10:38-42 NIV)

**The gift that only you can give to yourself is MARGIN.**

**Three areas we need margin in: TIME, MONEY, and MORALS.**

- The enemy of margin in our time: PEOPLE-PLEASING.
- The enemy of margin in our money: DISCONTENTMENT.
- The enemy of margin in our morals: COMPROMISE.

**We create margin when we make room for God.**

- Instead of people-pleasing, be GOD-PLEASING.  
*"Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and **please God** (just as you actually do walk), **that you excel still more.**" (1 Thessalonians 4:1 NASB)*
- Instead of focusing on your lack, focus on what you have: GRATITUDE.  
*"Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray continually, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)*
- Instead of focusing on the temptation, focus on WORSHIP.  
*"Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "**Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.**"'" (Matthew 4:10 NIV)*

*"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16 NIV)*

**We find rest when we take Jesus' yoke and let Him carry our BURDENS.**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV)*