

The Gift That You Give Yourself

Part three of the series, "Christmas Survival Guide"

Sunday, December 15, 2019 • Pastor Kalae George

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But 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!' ⁴¹'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but 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.

• **The amount AVAILABLE beyond what is NECESSARY.**

When your margin decreases:
STRESS increases. Relational INTIMACY decreases.

TIME margin.

"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." (Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT)

• **Say no to GOOD THINGS to say yes to the BEST things.**

Schedule and set what's important:
Intimate time with God. Intentional time of rest.

MONEY margin.

"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets." (Proverbs 21:20 TLB)

• **Live WITHIN your MEANS.**

Steward what you have:
Put God FIRST in your finances. 10/10/80 principle.

MORAL margin.

"When you are tempted to do wrong, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God cannot be tempted. He will never tempt anyone. ¹⁴A man is tempted to do wrong when he lets himself be led by what his bad thoughts tell him to do. ¹⁵When he does what his bad thoughts tell him to do, he sins. When sin completes its work, it brings death." (James 1:13-15 NLT)

• **Put DISTANCE between you and TEMPTATION.**

Living with margin makes ROOM for what matters most.

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