

Dear Missionaries,

I don't know if your situation is like mine, but I find that there is always more to do than time to do it in. Then I find myself in a vicious cycle of doing things *for* God instead of being *with* God. It's the whole Mary & Martha syndrome.

Recently I read something written by John Maxwell that I would like to share with you.

*I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my work,
and this was the reward for all my labor.
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

"We can learn from Solomon's costly mistakes. The king of Israel fervently pursued several unrelated goals in a vain attempt to satisfy himself. And by the time Solomon wrote these words, he had reached a high level of success – but still felt empty. The axiom remains true: If you chase two rabbits, both will escape.

"How about you? Do you have a way of determining your focus, based on what really matters or what really counts? Consider the following checklist as you make decisions about where to invest your time and energy. When faced with a decision, ask yourself:

- Is this consistent with my priorities?
- Is this within my area of competence?
- Can someone else do it better?
- What do my trusted friends say?
- Do I have the time?"

Pastor Scott Shuffield