

PRESENT OVER PERFECT

12•2•2025

LUKE 10:41-42

Christmas carries a quiet pressure—the desire for everything to be just right. At least for me it does. Maybe you can relate. We long for perfection—for the perfect meal, the perfect gathering, the perfect photograph that captures the magic of this sweet season. But in our striving for perfection, we often miss the beauty of the moments unfolding right in front of us.

In Luke 10, Martha needed everything to be just so for Jesus (and wouldn't we?!). Her heart was sincere—she wanted to honor him. But her attention was fixed on the presentation instead of his presence. Mary, meanwhile, simply sat with Jesus. She wasn't trying to make the moment perfect; she was in the moment. And Jesus gently reminded Martha that only “one thing is necessary.”

Perhaps that is our invitation this Advent: to lay down perfection so we can pick up presence. In the sense of how we host, what we do with our time, or even what we post on our Instagram accounts, to remember that the most meaningful moments are rarely flawless. They are often marked by laughter in the chaos, warmth in the imperfection, and love in the middle of the mess.

When we look back on Advents past, our memories rarely hold the details of a spotless house or a perfectly set table. We remember the candlelight, the joy, the sound of familiar voices, the quiet peace of knowing we are loved. Moments make memories, and memories don't remember the mess.

This season, let's be present for the real moments—the ones that matter. The ones where Jesus is quietly near, reminding us that his presence is the gift. Whether you're surrounded by family, missing someone dear, or walking through a quieter Christmas, he wants to meet us right where we are.

Perfection fades. Presence lasts. And when we choose to sit at his feet, to slow down and notice, to love and to listen, maybe that's when we find the “perfection” we were trying to attain all along. The perfection we were made for, the perfection that was and is and is to come, and that someday, we will live out fully. Praise God.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SPEND

Christmas

AT CEDAR SPRINGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

FAMILY SERVICE | 4PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 7 + 11PM

PRAYER

Lord, help me to let go of perfection and embrace the beauty of real moments. Teach me to be present with you and with those I love this season. May my heart rest in your presence, where joy and peace never depend on anything being perfect.



BY BETHANY FRENCH
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