

**Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"
"Choosing The Better"
Luke 10:38-42
Study-45**

"Our service to the Lord is never a substitute for worship, and our worship never draws us back from necessary service"

Martha loves Jesus but her Priorities were off! Luke 10:41 you are worried and bothered about so many things; Matthew 6:25

"The heart ought not to be an inn where the Lord sometimes comes, but a home where He always abides."

Luke 9:51-19:27 The Rejection Of The Son Of Man

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Christian Life Is Balancing Both Duty And Devotion Because Serving After Sitting, Produces Power And Balance"

- 1. Verse 38 Decision**
- 2. Verse 39 Devotion**
- 3. Verse 40 Distraction**
- 4. Verses 41-42 Distinction**

1. Verse 38 Decision

Luke 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Now Context – Luke 10:25-37 a lawyer, a Jewish religious leader was discussing the two great commandments of the Scripture: that we are to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. **"The Good Samaritan"** illustrates how we should love our neighbor. (Impossibility to be a Good Samaritan apart from a new birth)

Martha and Mary illustrate how we **should love God**. *Disciples show their love to God when we love to listen to His Word with an undivided heart!*

as they were traveling along, this section **Luke 9:51-19:27** we are studying how to deal with encounters on the road.

He entered a village; John 11:1 Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

This is a little town **Bethany**, which is next to the Mount of Olives. **Jesus is mentioned to be in Bethany four different times and each time Jesus reveals Himself in a different way.**

Bethany – Luke 10:38-42 Jesus The Gracious Teacher
Bethany – John 11:1-44 Jesus The Sympathizing Friend
Bethany – John 12:1-11 Jesus The Suffering Savior
Bethany – Luke 24:49-53 Jesus The Ascending Christ

This event appears to be out of sequence. **Luke 17:11 “The Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah” By Edershiem** he notes that based on **John 7:14** and other passages in John’s gospel that Jesus arrived during **“The Feast of Tabernacles.”**

and a woman named Martha John 11-12, Martha lived with her sister Mary and their, later to be famous, brother Lazarus.

Martha welcomed Him into her home. It appears that Martha is a widow for she is the head of the household.

2. Verse 39 Devotion

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, Mary of Bethany, brother Lazarus.

who was seated at the Lord’s feet, three times the Gospels record Mary at Jesus’ feet,

1. She sat at His feet and listened to His **Word** (Luke 10:39)
2. She fell at His feet and shared her **Woe** (John 11:32)
3. She came to His feet and poured out her **Worship** (John 12:3)

listening to His word. *“Listening intently to the Word”*

seated at the Lord’s feet, The phrase *“sitting right in front and close to Jesus’ feet”* Mary wanted to be as close to Jesus as possible.

James 4:6-10

3. Verse 40 Distraction

Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted this word that Luke uses **distracted** – means *“to be pulled apart, to be pulled away or dragged away to be torn in different directions”* **Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing**,

with all her preparations, How typical this really is. That the details begin to tear us up!

The implication is that Martha wanted to hear Jesus herself, she wanted to be seated at his feet too, but she was pulled away by her sense of her “duties” (Love the Lord but fail to delight in the Lord)

Fretting about the meal has robbed Martha of the joy of her service.

and she came up to Him, this is the wise step to take. When we are busy and over worked, we need to come to Jesus.

4 Lessons From Martha's Service To The Lord:

- 1. Loss of Focus Caused Martha to Resort to Self-Pity: and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone?"** Literally said, "*Lord, you do care that Mary does not assist me in serving, don't you?*"

Consider Martha's situation: Martha received Jesus into her home and then neglected Him as she prepared an elaborate meal that He did not need! **what we do with Christ** is far more important than what **we do for Christ**.

It is not an either/or situation; it is a matter of balance: Mary had done her share of the work in the kitchen and then had gone to "feed" on the Lord's teachings.

It was the attitude that she was doing it with that became the problem. Martha's problem was one of balance, between the going and doing and the sitting and listening.

- 2. Loss of Focus Causes Martha to Become Angry at Others: and she came up to Him**, we need to note what this phrase means – "*stepping up to or bursting in or upon Jesus. It is an explosive act as is the speech of Martha*"

"Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone?"

Few things are as damaging to the Christian life as trying to work for Christ without taking time to commune with Christ. John 15:5 "by bread alone" (Matthew 4:4)

- 3. Loss of Focus Causes Martha to Find Fault with Others: "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."** It is an explosion that takes place.

Finally, she says **Then tell her (Not by name) to help me." She is doing nothing! Just sitting at the feet of Jesus!**

When our priorities are not right, we can start to think that everybody should be more like us.

4. Loss of Focus Causes Martha to Question God's Care: "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone?"

Martha's thinking is that if Jesus really cared then He would make Mary get up and help her.

NLT Isaiah 29:15-16

4. Verses 41-42 Distinction

Luke 10:41 "Martha, Martha, Jesus by saying Martha's name **two times** was a term of endearment; Jesus is tender to her.

you are worried to *"be anxious, to be divided, distracted. to take thought"*

Matthew 6:25

and bothered to *"be crowded, to be disturb, like a storm at sea"*

about so many things; literally - *Jesus seems to say to Martha that only one dish was really necessary for the meal instead of the "many" about which she was so anxious.*

Martha's problem was not that she had too much work to do, but that she allowed her work to distract her and pull her apart.

Luke 10:42 but only one thing is necessary, Jesus uses a metaphor with the preparations of this meal.

The best dish on the table, (Good Part) "fellowship with Jesus"

but only one, Revelation 2:1-7

The core of Martha's problem is that she tried to impose her value system on Mary.

for Mary has chosen to notice that there is a choice to be made.

the good part, (Portion) The key is to have the right priorities: Jesus Christ first, then others, then ourselves. **Luke 4:4**

which shall not be taken away from her." This is that which will last!

John 12:1-2, Martha must have learned her lesson, for she prepared a feast for Jesus, the Twelve, and her brother and sister—that's fifteen people

Application:

1. The Christian Life Is Balancing Both Duty And Devotion
2. Sitting Without Serving Is Pointless
3. Serving Without Sitting Is Directionless
4. Serving After Sitting Produces Power And Balance