

The Good Portion

Luke's inclusion of the account of Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary immediately following his teaching on the Good Samaritan reminds us that God has not called us to mere good works - and that if they become an end in themselves, good works can become an obstacle to true Christian flourishing.

1. A Good Start
 - a. Hospitality in the ancient world
 - b. Martha's gracious initiative
2. A Troubling Development
 - a. Mary: sits at Jesus' feet
 - b. **But** Martha...
 - i. Is distracted
 - ii. With ***much*** serving
3. A Bad End
 - a. Martha is critical of Jesus
 - b. Martha is critical of her sister
4. The Lord's Response
 - a. Gracious and affirming - see also Luke 22:31
 - b. Insightful and corrective
 - i. He sees what is wrong with Martha
 - ii. He commends what is right with Mary

Application:

1. Are we "anxious and troubled by many things"? Are we critical of other Christians who do not share our angst?
2. Are we distracted with much serving? Do we need to spend more time in fellowship with Jesus and his people?
3. Have you chosen the good portion for yourself?