

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Martha and Mary

Last time...Jesus sent 70, 2x2, for the next phase of His ministry – the Judean countryside and Perea.

Then Jesus was put on trial by a lawyer with questions of
“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
and
“Who is my neighbor?”

Referring to an incident involving a robbed and beaten man, a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan, Jesus shattered all the lawyer “knows” by linking, making inseparable “Love the Lord your God” and “Love your neighbor”

This time...these things come together in a lesson in ministry involving two sisters, Martha and Mary

We will again be in Luke 10
[read v38-42]

v38 they...entered into a certain village:
Jesus and His disciples,
leaving Jerusalem to go evangelize in the Judean countryside and then Perea,
go east on the road to Jericho (setting of His ‘Who is my neighbor?’ teaching)
into the Judean wilderness

They go 2 miles, near the crest of the Mount of Olives, but on the eastern (other) slope, to a village named Bethany

With v5-7 in mind, Jesus is invited into the home of Martha, Mary, & Lazarus...

- by Martha (matriarch?)
- previously visited by 2 of the 70, in preparation of Jesus’ visit (v1)

This is our introduction to this family; we will see them again in John 11

v39 Mary...sat at Jesus' feet:

Previously, in the Galilee,

Matt 9:5 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

In this phase of His ministry, He is going to minister in the same fashion in the Judean countryside and Perea

Here in Bethany, Mary/Miriam is sitting at Jesus' feet listening to Him preach the gospel of the kingdom

Sitting at the teacher's feet is the place of learning and reverence/worship

Deut 33:1-3

1 Sam 3:19-21

So too must we, as students/followers/disciples of Jesus, sit at His feet

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him

Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, hearing by Word of God

2 Peter 3:18 Grow in grace and knowledge

v40 But Martha was cumbered:

However, Martha is not at Jesus' feet, learning of Him and the gospel of the kingdom

She is cumbered/distracted from listening to the Word of Life because she is too busy serving others

Is it a "bad thing" to serve others?

"serving" and "serve": "deacon"

No, but there is an issue that needs to be addressed

Issue: Martha's heart

1. distracted vs focused

Martha is focused on working, working, working...
not hearing what Jesus is saying

Martha came to Jesus...

- she was not in a place to hear (focus) Him preach and teach
- Jesus did not have the undivided attention of everyone in the home...Martha and whoever she may have been distracted with her bustling about

We cannot hear the still small voice of God if we are busier than a one-armed wallpaper hanger...or if we are distracted by someone else who is

Martha...and we...need to:

- slow down
- be still
- focus on the Lord
- hear what the Lord has to say
- worship the Lord

We need a time of refreshing and encouragement at the feet of Jesus to put the busy-ness of life in proper perspective and to receive the strength to carry on

2. complaining, murmuring vs joyful, content

Can you cite me a reference in Scripture where the Lord rewards/commends murmuring?

3. "edgy"...with both Jesus and her sister Mary –

She doesn't care, why don't You care?!

4. victim vs bondservant

- a. "voice of a 'martyr'"
- b. self-centered victim vs God-centered or others-centered bondservant

5. demanding: Tell her to help me!

6. Perhaps even a bit self-righteous...a better person than Mary

v41-42 Martha, Martha:

Jesus gently, lovingly responds to the issue with Martha

You are careful and troubled about many things...anxious and disturbed
vs at peace and rest

But...contrary to being anxious and disturbed as you are

One thing is needful...necessary and required – v39b

To “Follow Me”, the calling of God to a disciple

To “do the works of God, “Believe in Him Whom He has sent”

To know the Father and the Son (v22)

To “Go and do likewise”, love the Lord and love your neighbor
with the heart of God

Mary has chosen that good part...God did not choose for Mary,
Mary chose for herself

Which shall not be taken away from her...1st Things 1st
Martha, you should make the same choice your sister Mary did,
rather than complaining about Mary not choosing the part you did

Application

As there are 2 sisters in this brief account, so there are 2 primary lessons for us in it...
both in the context of v25-28, “no-strings-attached” Love

1. Love the Lord

One thing is needful/necessary/required and is the good part:
to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him

Relational Love is built on trust and knowing the other Person
We cannot Love the Lord if we do not know Him

We know Him by

- receiving Him into our home/heart
- hearing His revelation of Himself – the written Word
- growing in faith and grace and knowledge of Him

At the place of learning and reverence/worship (Jesus’ feet), we

- “fall in love”
- receive His *agapao*, “no-strings-attached” love for us

My heart’s desire for my children and all of you: fall in love with Jesus

Wiles of the enemy to prevent us from knowing the Lord Who will be known:

- busy-ness...pace and “work load”
- distractions...noise of the world
- complaining/murmuring (manifestation of self-centeredness)

2. Love your neighbor

Is it a “bad thing” to serve others as Martha was?

No...“serving” and “serve”: “deacon”

Yes...she had the wrong heart, not God’s heart

because she chose not the good part as did Mary

When we serve others with the heart of God, we

- love and serve the Lord
- love our neighbor

Loving our neighbor, serving, is without

- whining/complaining
- calling attention to oneself...”Look how hard I am working!”
- self-gain...but for the gain of others

We cannot serve others (love our neighbor) with the heart of God if we do not first Love the Lord

To be a bondservant of the Lord (deacon), we must first be a learner of the Lord

We cannot serve others if we are not fed at the feet of Jesus

We cannot give to others unless we have first received from God

We cannot lead others unless we are following Jesus

What is the very best help we can give someone in need?

- Jesus Christ...our testimony and witness
- The Gospel...newness of life
- Whatever leads to the “end of Self”

And once again, “Love the Lord your God” and “Love your neighbor” are linked and inseparable

Jesus Christ came to

- teach and preach
 - John 7:14-17 doctrine of the One Who sent Him
- serve
 - John 4:34 serve God
 - John 13:4-17 serve others (even a betrayer!)

If we sit (hear teaching and preaching) without serving, we do not manifest/show the heart of God

If we serve without sitting, we do not manifest/show the heart of God

We cannot learn of God if we do not

1. sit at Jesus' feet (Love the Lord your God)
2. serve others (Love your neighbor)

To get the complete message of the Word of God (Matt 22:36-40, Rom 13:10),
we must DO both

1. sit at Jesus' feet
Learn of Him by hearing AND doing...in word and in deed
2. serve others
Serve joyfully
firmly grounded in worship of and fellowship with the Lord

And...1st Things 1st

1. sit at Jesus' feet (Love the Lord your God)
2. serve others (Love your neighbor)

Matt 6:27, 33 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you

Be blessed by the Lord in both hearing and doing
Love with no strings attached hears AND does

Be a Mary AND Be a Martha
Be a "Marthy"

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present
your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your
reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye
transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that
good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

James 2:14-26

Serving the Lord and others is

- a manifestation
- an expression
- evidence

of

- faith
- *agapao*...God's no-strings-attached Love

There are always opportunities to serve the Lord and others

- at home
- at work
- out and about
- at church
 - Children's Ministry
 - Marriage Ministry
 - Webpage
 - Set up/Tear down

1 Peter 5:5b-7

Heb 10:22-25

Being at Jesus' feet is both individual and congregational
Being here is different than watching on FB Live or on the webpage

In each other's presence, we encourage each other to

1. Love the Lord our God
2. Love our neighbor as ourself