

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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● **lesson eight**

the servanthood of martha

## Lesson 8: The Servanthood of Martha

[Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44; John 12:1-8

By reviewing the above texts we understand that we know Martha basically through relationships she had with others. Her relationship with Jesus, with her sister, and her brother tell us most of what we need to know to understand her. From these relationships, what conclusions can be drawn about Martha?

What are some positive things that you notice about Martha's service to others?

What are some negative things that you notice about Martha's service to others?

The first passage uses the phrases "distracted," "worried" and "bothered" - what do you suppose is happening in Martha's life to cause these reactions?

What could Martha have done instead of responding like she did?

Is it possible to be a "Martha" and not have these feelings? Explain.

Was there anything wrong with Martha wanting to serve Jesus well?

What if she was the exact representative of her sister and neither “did the work”?

How could she have made her service even better?

What do you think Martha’s attitude did to the feelings and enjoyment of others?

To which sister would you say “Thank you”? To Martha for her serving, or to Mary for her attitude?

Do you think that the way we do a job gives it value or not?

What is better, to do a job grudgingly or to not do a job at all?

Have you ever meditated on or evaluated your service to see if it could be improved?

**Actions** - What was the motivation behind Martha’s busy work?

In trying to serve Jesus was she doing herself and her other relationships harm?

Have you known people who were busy in the work of the Lord, but who never seemed to have an intimate relationship with the one they were trying to serve? Explain.

Have you ever accepted an assignment but were angry about it? Have you done a job while all the time musing about all the others who never “take their turn”? Explain

**Application** – Define servanthood.

Do you have a ministry? What service to others will go undone if you were removed from the scene?

Are you more like a Martha or a Mary?

Which sister would you prefer to spend half an hour with?

Which sister would you prefer to spend a day with?

Who do you know that has inspired you with their servant heart?

What is there in their example or in this lesson that has challenged you about serving?

Is there something would you like to start doing? Can you do it with love and joy?

Modern day example of a servant: Jim Markle, D. Ed

Though possessing several advanced degrees and having served some prestigious congregations, Jim Markle continues to demonstrate a servant heart day after day. Whether it is caring for his special needs adult son, or getting all the financial records in shape, or his weekly ministry at the nursing home, or having to fix a clogged and overflowing toilet, Jim carries out his responsibilities with joy and without complaining. There is nothing Jim will not tackle to be able to care for the needs of others and helping them to accomplish their ministry.

