

Martha and Mary

Luke 10:38-42

8/13/00

Intro

In this story Jesus is welcomed into the home of a woman named Martha. We know that Mary, her sister, also lived there and from other scriptures we know that Lazarus was their brother.

Martha is busy about the business of getting things ready for their guest, but Mary has chosen to take advantage of an opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet and receive the Lord's words. Martha is bothered by the lack of help and makes a complaint.

In this story we learn how to stay spiritually healthy.

I. Be Careful about the Focus on Self.

Vs 38

A. Martha was upset because she wasn't getting help.

- She wasn't upset because she was missing an opportunity to listen to the Lord's word, but that *she* was doing all the work.
- It's hard to receive this because we so often justify ourselves in what we do.

Illus-

Vs 40

B. Focus on self makes us lose our perspective.

- To the point that Martha even started to correct the Lord.
- "Don't you care?"
- "Then tell her to help."

Vs 40

C. "What about Me," is a distraction away from God's best for us .

Illus-

I have come to realize that wherever I go... I am there... constantly concerned about me.

II. Choose the Better Portion

"Mary has chosen the good part."

Vs 39

A. Sitting at His feet shows a teachable heart.

- The only way change occurs.

B. Listen for the Word of God **AND** the heart of God.

- The lawyer in the previous section knew the Law, but not the Spirit of the Law (the Spirit of God).
- The priest and the Levite knew religion but not the heart of God.

C. Each of us needs to sit and receive of the Lord.

- Don't defer to someone else.

Illus- Don't put it onto your wife, or husband, or pastor, or anyone else.

D. Consider the value of inputs.

- From God
- From the world

III. We Need to Balance Receiving and Serving.

Was Jesus saying that the ONLY thing that Mary should ever do is to sit at His feet? Should she join a monastery?

No, there is a balance between receiving and serving.

Vs 42

A. But receiving is most important

B. Then our serving is given with a right heart.

C. Watch for spiritual dryness.

- This is usually first seen in complaining.

- The answer is found at the feet of Jesus.
- Don't just go through the motions of life. Find life in the presence of God.

Conclusion

How do we receive from the Lord?

Don't fall into the trap of the lawyer, the priest, or the Levite. Don't just do some religious things. Have a personal relationship with the Lord.

Have personal time with the Lord when you receive from His Word, are filled with His Spirit, and sit at His feet.

Then your heart and your life will be filled with the joy of the Lord, as well as the serving He desires.