

- I) V38-42 INTRO: Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village and a certain woman
  - a) THIS MORNING: I simply want to encourage us all to spend time with Jesus
    - 1) We can learn something of this by looking at two of Jesus' disciples: Martha and Mary
  
- II) V38 AS WE BEGIN: Luke tells us that Jesus has entered into a *certain village*
  - a) AT THIS TIME: Jesus and His men are near the city of Jerusalem
    - 1) Jn 11:1 Tells us it is Bethany, the home of Lazarus, Mary, and their older sister Martha
    - 2) Bethany is located 2 miles north east of Jerusalem
  
- III) V38 UPON ENTERING THE CITY: A certain woman named Martha welcomed Him *into her house*
  - a) As the homeowner, Martha graciously welcomed Jesus into her home, to entertain Him
  
- IV) V39 AND: She had a sister called Mary who *also* sat at Jesus' *feet* and *heard His word*
  - a) This is a simple way of saying that Martha was a follower of Jesus, *but so was Mary*
  
- V) V39 NOTICE: Luke makes it very clear that Mary comfortably *sat a Jesus' feet* and *heard His word*
  - a) Sitting at the feet of a rabbi is the common way people would receive instruction
    - 1) Ac 22:31 I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city *at the feet of Gamaliel*, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law...
    - 2) HEARD: To consider what has been said; to find out, to learn, to understand
  
- VI) POINT: Mary, as a disciple of Jesus comfortably sat at His feet, listening and understanding His message
  - a) This is a picture of *peaceful fellowship* with the Lord
    - 1) Ps. 131:1-2 My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me; *but I have stilled and quieted my soul*; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.
    - 2) We did this as young believers, at Calvary Costa Mesa
  
- VII) IT WOULD SEEM OBVIOUS: That Mary understood her spiritual needs and how Jesus met them
  - a) She knew that the best place for her was sitting at the feet of Jesus, receiving His wisdom
    - 1) She knew that Jesus gave words of Life, and she wanted to receive from Him
    - 2) Ps 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.
    - 3) Ps 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
  
- VIII) FACT: What an incredible blessing that would have been: to hear Words of Life from its source
  - a) What could be more of a blessing to hear God's word, sitting at the feet of Jesus?
    - 1) Is 50:4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary...
    - 2) Lu 4:22 All bore witness to Him, and marveled at the *gracious words* which proceeded out of His mouth
    - 3) Jn 7:46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"
  
- IX) OBVIOUSLY: Mary loved sitting at the feet of Jesus soaking in His teachings
  - a) Receiving His word was her joy and pleasure and had infinite and eternal value
    - 1) Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

- I) V40 ON THE OTHER HAND: Her older sister Martha was *distracted* with much serving
  - a) *Distracted* means to be driven about mentally; over-occupied, too busy about a thing
    - 1) SHE HAD SUPPER FOR 16: Jesus, the 12, as well as Mary, Lazarus, and herself
    - 2) Martha may resent the fact that her sister is sitting while she is working!
  
- II) THIS IS ONE: Of the most common temptations genuine believers are trapped by
  - a) We can become overly concerned with *what we are doing*, and to forget *why we do it*
    - 1) Have you ever planned an event, gotten frustrated, and just wanted to get it over with
    - 2) Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter with the family can start out well and end up really bad!
  
- III) V40 SHE APPROACHED HIM: Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?
  - a) KEY: Not only is she angry with her sister for being lazy but she is mad at Jesus for allowing it
    - 1) His priorities need correcting, too! Of course, we never correct God (or do we?)
    - 2) Jer 12:1 Righteous *are* You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about *Your* judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? *Why* are those happy who deal so treacherously?
  
- IV) KEY: When we serve the Lord with anxiety in our hearts, we ultimately complain
  - a) INTERESTINGLY: As an older sister, Martha actually speaks to Jesus disrespectfully
    - 1) NOTICE: She not only questions Him, but she also takes it upon herself to give Him orders
    - 2) SHE SAYS: *Don't you care* that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell *her to help me!*
  
- V) WHAT DO WE LEARN: That is not proper when we serve the Lord
  - a) FIRST: Martha attached too much importance to what *she was doing* for Jesus
    - 1) As the hostess, she was just too busy to enjoy what was going on herself!
    - 2) Serving Jesus became a work and duty, and her motives no longer were pure
  
- VI) FOR MARTHA: What more than likely had begun in the right spirit had ended up in the flesh
  - a) An elaborate meal or a perfect order in the house was not necessary for Jesus
    - 1) Martha's perfectionism and frustration interrupted the whole bible study
  
- VII) A *SECOND* UNNECESSARY THING: Was Martha's anxious and troubled attitude
  - a) Martha became *distracted*, meaning she was overwhelmed and mentally stressed
    - 1) Because of all the work of serving this meal, she lost touch with the inner peace that is given her by the Lord: Service took center stage, and peace left.
  
- VIII) THE FACT IS: Serving the Lord is to be a work of love, done for Him out of a thankful heart
  - a) Our service to the Lord really progresses from a heart in love with Him
    - 1) 2 Co 5:14 The love of Christ compels us
    - 2) IT IS SO TRUE: When you lose sight of why you serve Jesus, you will always lose His peace
  
- IX) A *THIRD* UNNECESSARY THING: Was Martha's bad attitude towards people!
  - a) She resented serving all by herself and was angry because nobody was helping her
    - 1) A GOOD QUESTION IS: Who wants to eat a meal prepared by a grumpy cook?
    - 2) Remember, 2 Corinthians 9:7 says God loves a *cheerful giver*
  
- X) INCIDENTALLY: I have come to believe that serving the Lord is a joy
  - a) Nothing fulfills a person like spiritual service
  
- I) THE FACT IS: Our jobs cannot give us a sense of spiritual joy and fulfillment

a) Ruling Egypt did not satisfy Moses, being a shepherd did not satisfy David, tending fruit trees did not satisfy Amos, fishing did not satisfy John, gathering taxes did not satisfy Matthew, nationalistic politics did not satisfy Simon the Zealot, money did not satisfy Zacchaeus, religion did not satisfy Nicodemus, and theology did not satisfy Paul

1) Serving God fills the void that our jobs cannot fill and gives us joy

II) FINALLY, A *FOURTH* UNNECESSARY THING: Was Martha's *disrespect* towards Jesus

a) Martha made her comments to the Lord *while others were present*.

1) She even blamed Jesus for not caring about her, and demanded that He tell Mary to help her!

2) Complaining will always result when we serve with wrong hearts

III) KEY: This is the inevitable result of laboring in the flesh: We blame God for our dissatisfaction

a) We even begin to believe that He simply is not aware of what is going on

1) Ps 10:1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

IV) KEY: All of this that Martha was doing for Jesus was appreciated, but not the highest priority

a) He now makes this very clear

V) V41-42 MARTHA, MARTHA: You are worried and troubled about many things But one thing is needed

a) HIS POINT: *Listening to My word* is the primary concern for all of my followers

1) KEY: If you will *serve* Me, you must first *fellowship* with Me!

VI) MINI-TESTIMONY: I got saved on Dec 27, 1970

a) FIRST 2 MONTHS: I attended weekly studies, had people over to my house, and read to them.

1) I went into the Army (3/15/71) and served 21 months active duty with a 3 month early out

2) During that time, as a new believer I never really was totally stable in my walk with the Lord

VII) THE FIRST YEAR: My walk was up and down; the second year became more stable.

a) I was discharged (12/15/72) and backslid for 5 months, the last month being especially bad

1) I was broken and I repented and went back to church the second week of May, in 1973.

2) AT THAT TIME: I began attending Biola College in September of 1973

VIII) FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS: My heart ached: Carnality seemed to be *Church* norm

a) Gossip, social drinking, latest trends, movies, dates, style of clothes, etc was most important

b) Lack of interest in Bible studies, fellowship centered on Christ, scripture reading, witnessing

1) Being a freshly recommitted Christian, I could sense a spiritual quenching, but had no understanding of *why*

IX) IN SEPTEMBER OF 1973: God gave me an opportunity to start teaching His Word

a) I began a Home Bible study for a handful of people at my parent's house

1) In 1974 I began a study in Ontario, and ultimately ended up planting a church

X) GREATEST SORROW: Callused *believers*, satisfied with Carnality, and calling it Christianity

a) It has been called cheap grace: Making excuses for non-committed, lukewarm lives

1) Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!

How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

I) JESUS GAVE THE CHURCH HIS GREAT COMMISSION:

a) Mt 28:18-19 Go into the world and make Disciples, not deciders, not *carnal nominal believers*

- II) GOD HAS GIVEN ME: A serious desire to see people *transformed* into disciples
  - a) Hungering for a deep, loving relationship *with Jesus*, the Living Word is my desire and vision
    - 1) This attracted me to Calvary Chapel: People caring if you knew and loved Jesus
    - 2) I want to remain true to this Model God gave to me
- III) JESUS GAVE HIS FOLLOWERS A COMMANDMENT:
  - a) Jn 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you...
- IV) WITHOUT A NEW HEART: We cannot keep God's new (fresh) commandment
  - a) When we repent and come to Him, He gives us a new heart
    - 1) Martha had a new heart, but was distracted while Mary wasn't
- V) V41-42 AND: Jesus answered and said to her *Martha, Martha* you are worried and troubled about many
  - a) You are inwardly anxious and outwardly restless, and have forgotten the highest priority
    - 1) *One thing* is needed and Mary has chosen that good part which will not be taken away from her
- VI) MARY: Had a proper perspective and did the one thing that was most important
  - a) Mary had chosen the most important thing: fellowship with Jesus
    - 1) Ps 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.
- VII) SHE KNEW: The most important thing for her to do was to be sitting at the feet of Jesus
  - a) AT HIS FEET: She was drinking in His Word, loving Him, and fellowshiping with Him
    - 1) Hearing Him was her top priority, because His word gave her inner strength and wisdom
    - 2) 1 Pe 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby
- VIII) AGAIN: Jesus says that Mary *had chosen* that good part
  - a) This was a conscious decision on her part to be at His feet: we choose to do this
    - 1) Ps 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!
- IX) THIS: Is what will help you to enjoy serving the Lord and avoid burn out
  - a) Make sure you spend time with Him in prayer and devotions
    - 1) Is 40:31 But they *that wait* upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- X) DON'T GET SO BUSY: That you forget the One who loves you
  - a) Let us rekindle our flames, let us return to our first love