

## Luke 10:38-41 (41)

Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

At the home of Martha and Mary

**Luke 10:38-41** As Jesus and his disciple were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She has a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lords' feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!!- Martha, Martha, the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed-or indeed only one. **Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.**"

Prior to this Jesus was preaching about the Good Samaritan- distinguishing between how the religious leaders ignored an injured man, but yet a gentile (a Samaritan went out of his way to help the man). As they left, they entered a certain village and Martha received Jesus into her house.

(Notice the tone in Martha's voice because of her frustration; she was hot against the Lord and borderline hostile with him) Jesus had to call her name twice: Martha, Martha, (how many time have you had to call your child or spouse name twice in order to get them to tone it down because they were so bent on proving their point) Martha was upset! Why?

Because she was so busy working for the Lord, that her soul/body was lacking his peace and rest that comes from spending time with him. (How many people have you met in the church or who name the name of Christ that are always serving, but are mean and quick tempered)

I was in prayer one morning and the Lord reminded me of this scripture of how Mary had chosen what is better by simply sitting at his feet and listening. Upon Jesus arrival into the home of Martha; we see two different reactions to the Lord.

(1) Martha responded with her hands. (works/religion)

(2) Mary responded with her heart. (faith/grace).

This scene between these two sisters is a type and shadow of what was to come and what ended in terms of the old and new covenant.

The Jews (Martha) was accustomed to performing and preparing rituals/sacrifices to please the Lord in the **old covenant**, whereas in the new covenant the work/sacrifice is completed once and for all by Jesus. Martha was still under the influence of religion/law trying to please the Lord by her might, and earn the love and acceptance of God,

(Mary) simply sat down and opened her heart unto the Lord letting him in. (type and shadow of the **new covenant**)-faith without works.

There is absolutely nothing with serving and hosting the Lord, but Its bigger than Martha just preparing the place for the Lord, it's a mindset of that era in terms of the people relationship with God. Everything was based upon works

## Herein is the great war between relationship and religion.

**Religion says**, "I must work to please God."

Relationship says, "God's son has done the work and because his son is in me-God is already pleased with me."

I used to be legalistic- my mentality was you must do this, that, jump this high, swing upon this chandelier and do a backward flip, then the Lord will be please with you. It was burdensome and exhausting along with condemnation.

### **Always trying to correct people- That's religion.**

**Relationship says:** Romans 5:1-2, Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the Glory of God! We simply come!

The Lord is more interested in our relationship with him instead of what we can do for him. Jesus has done the work! Jesus died for us to be restored back to fellowship/relationship with the father.

**Look at this beautiful illustration within John 20:17- Jesus said unto her, "touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my father, but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my father and your father and to my God and your God! Jesus is no longer identifying them simply as disciples- he is now identifying them as brothers and sisters declaring that God is now their father too! Paving the way for a restored relationship back to God the Father! Praise the Lord!**

This is why Jesus responded to Martha stating that, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." What did Mary choose by sitting and listening to the Lord Jesus:

Mary chose relationship: Jer 29:13- And ye shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart

Mary chose rest: Matt 11:28- Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mary chose wisdom: Prov 2:6- For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Mary chose prosperity: 2<sup>nd</sup> Chron 26:5- And as long he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.

Mary chose strength: Psalm 84:5- Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the ways of them.

Mary chose satisfaction: Psalm 91:16- With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

These are the better parts that the Lord was referencing that Mary chose to partake of simply by sitting and listening at his feet. While Martha was busy preparing for the Lord, which is honorable- she was missing out on the one who was able to satisfy her frustrated soul. He was in the house!

Again- How many people have you encountered in the house of God that is mean, quick tempered, aggressive- they are working for the Lord, but their souls are lean and needs filling from the Lord. Serving on empty.

God wants us- not our hands- He wants us.

Lets us not get so focus on serving the Lord, that we forget about the Lord.

Mary and Martha took two different approaches in order to please and host the Lord, but the Lord said that Mary has done the better part

Which one are you? Are you a Mary or a Martha??

Is it more convenient for you to serve God or spend time with God; **You always want to serve God from or out of your relationship with God- not the other way around.**

John 5:19-20 says, "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the father loves the son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

Jesus is serving His Father from His relationship with Him, this is what our God desires that we get to know Him first and out of knowing Him the serving will come and the impact will be far greater!  
Because it's a joint effort!