

Luke 10:38–42

"Serving and Needing the Lord Jesus"

***What can we learn from Martha here?** Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these five verses, we learn that by God's grace, when others refused Christ, Martha welcomed Him—may we too serve Christ and be identified with Him when it becomes unpopular and costly! But, she came to be focused upon the "muchness" of her serving, which distracted her from the Christ Whom she had welcomed. Mary knew that she needed Him, and Martha showed her own need of Him by being worried and troubled about many things. We, too, need Him and can recognize when we are focused upon the muchness of our own service by when we are distracted from Jesus and His words, when we are irritated with others for not serving as much as we do, and when we are worried and troubled about many things.*

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Luke chapter 10 verses 38 through 42, these are God's words. Now it happened as they went that he entered a certain village and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house and she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus feet and heard his word.

But Martha was distracted with much serving and she approached him and said Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone therefore tell her to help me. Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha. You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed.

And Mary has chosen that good part. Which will not be taken away from her.

So for the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

And so Jesus has been working his way toward Jerusalem, in fact. It told us back in chapter 9 that he had set his face to Jerusalem. And that they had entered village of the Samaritans in chapter 9 and verse 52 to prepare for him, but that they did not receive him.

Because his face was set for the journey to Jerusalem, it was becoming dangerous to be associated with Jesus and of course the Samaritans may have been prejudiced against the Jews as well. But it would have been even more dangerous in Bethany where Mary and Martha and Lazarus live and so when it tells us that.

Now he entered a certain village and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house, it's actually in contrast to what we have just recently been seeing in the Gospel of Luke. And this commends Martha highly because probably Mary and Lazarus were there as well. Later as John tells us in John chapter 11, they refer to Lazarus as in who you love and so is highly likely that this was one of those occasions in which Lazarus was getting to know Christ and they were becoming friends and and Jesus friendship love for him was obvious and increasing.

Maybe even the time that that he met Lazarus. Excuse me. So even though Martha even though Mary and Lazarus are also in the house verse 38 specifically tells us. Martha was the one who welcomed him into her house and we too should be willing to welcome Christ when others are not whether they are fearful or don't want to be bothered or have some kind of when whatever reasons they have against serving Christ and being recognized with him and we must serve Christ we must.

Be willing to be identified with him and so it's very good. Martha welcomed him into her house. And verse 39 and she had a sister called Mary who also saw it sat and Jesus feet and heard his word about Martha was distracted with much serving. And now it's not wrong to serve Christ.

But what verse 40 is telling us is that Martha because of the muchness of her serving because the emphasis on what she was doing was distracted from Christ. So she wasn't as you might have seen someone do in one situation or another kind of just doing the very basics of what is necessary said that.

So that she can pay attention and not be distracted by what she is doing and hurry up and finish it so that she can come and sit but she was distracted by the muchness of her servant. And she was so distracted by the muchness of her serving that she thought Jesus might be distracted from the muchness of her serving by his teaching that that perhaps he is so busy teaching and

Mary Mary and others but Mary is feet that he isn't noticing that I am how much I'm serving so she comes she approaches him and she says lord do you not care?

Very interesting right because really we could say Martha, do you not care that? Jesus is teaching. Why the muchness of this serving but she thinks he is missing out on the muchness of her serving by his teaching. And we too can fall into that how often we are so focused on what we feel like we want to do for the Lord and we increase it and increase it increase it and it must be just so and private worship falls by the way family worship falls by the wayside if public worship doesn't fall by the wayside we are even distracted while we are there and distracted by the muchness of our serving and the whole time hoping I hope thinking or feeling or maybe even not even willing to say it.

Out loud in our hearts. I hope Jesus notices how much I'm serving. And so Martha's. Very similar to how we can end up being. And. It's so Lord do not care that my sister has left me to serve alone therefore help me. Jesus answered and said to her. Martha Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

Is an interesting. The Lord's word does many good things for us, but one of the things that it just about always does is eliminate worry and trouble. Because it tells us the truth about who he is and what he has done and even though it tells us the truth about who we are.

Whether telling to somebody who is outside of Christ, they should be worried in troubled about that but when they find out about Christ and God brings them to faith. Don't worry in the trouble disappear and we do have remaining sin but when we are reminded if we belong to God through faith in Jesus, when we are reminded that Jesus is our righteousness and he's taken away our sin and our guilt when we are reminded of what God is doing in us and that it shall surely be completed and that we will be perfectly holy and perfectly happy forever that takes away that worry in trouble and of course all other warriors and troubles are taken away by the reminder that God is using and all things and Working in all things for our good.

And so Jesus answers and sister are Martha. Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things but one thing is needed and Mary has chosen that good part does he say Mary is not worried and in troubled. He doesn't. But he does say that what Mary needs and what Martha needs.

Is to give attention to Jesus. That. That in sitting at his feet and hearing his word that they can be instructed and have fellowship with him and we know that it's not just instruction for our minds but even the means by which he grows us he grows us and the grace his grace and in knowing him.

And so he says Mary has chosen that good part which will not be taken away from her. And is possible if we are impressed with the muchness of our serving that we won't realize not only how needy we are but how needy our brothers and sisters are and we will want them to join us in our muchness.

When what they need first and foremost? Is the Lord Jesus and his word. So Martha is a good example of at first for us welcoming Christ serving him being willing to be identified with him. But let us remember. That we are needy and if we. Start being irritated with others because they're not serving as much as we are or if we are worried in troubled about many things.

Let us remember that the one thing that is needed is probably needed even more by us at that point. If we are irritated with others because they're not serving as much as we are or if we are worried or if we are troubled the answer the thing that is needed is our Lord Jesus and his word.

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for these times in which we can draw near to you together as a family and consider your word. Because we do often get irritated with others. And think that they are not serving or perhaps even they are not. But the irritation in our hearts reveals that we are self-impressed with the muchness of our serving.

So help us Lord. To serve out of love and to serve in a way that does not distract us from our neediness of you and the fellowship that we may have with you in your word and we pray that you would help us to not be worried and troubled about many things.

But that by this one thing that is needed in our private worship and our family worship every day in the worship of the Lord's day every week. That you would stabilize us and gliden us. By your word and by our fellowship with you so that we would not be worried in troubled about many things.

But instead liberated to serve you in that way that knows you knows you and doesn't miss. Out on you. So help us. Lord. I pray especially for these children. That. As they grow in wisdom and stature and favor with men. That so also they would grow in favor with you.

That they would be much focused upon you. And that they would not fall into the over emphasis on what they are doing. And miss out on their neediness of you and your sufficiency for that need. So grant to them to walk with you we ask. In Jesus name. Amen.