

week 5 : *Jesus surprises people*

Scripture to Read: Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary.¹ Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Summary of Luke 10:38-42

Jesus is a guest in the Bethany home of Martha and Mary, whom Jesus counts among his closest friends. Mary sits at his feet, listening. Martha is, by contrast, very busy with meal preparations. When Martha's anxiety drives her to complain about her sister's disregard of her hard work and about Jesus' apparent indifference, Jesus gently tells Martha that she has let herself become worried by all the work and by that she has forgotten the most important thing.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."[Luke 10:36-37]

Questions for Personal Study and/or Group Discussion

• Do you think that Jesus was the only guest in Martha and Mary's home or that likely Jesus *and* the Twelve were present? If the latter, how does this change how you view Martha's frustration?

¹ Some manuscripts read *few things are necessary, or only one*

- Put Jesus' reply to Martha in your own words.
- Francis Schaeffer wrote in his philosophy of ministry for L'Abri Fellowship, "We draw a distinction between Christian men and women building the kingdom of God, and men and women praying that God will build his kingdom and be pleased to use their efforts as he does." Do you understand the distinction? Where in your life do you struggle with this issue?
- How often are you, like Martha, so distracted "by all the preparations" or whatever else you think is important that it causes you to neglect what might be even more significant? What particular things tempt you to become distracted in such a way?
- What "better" things do you often neglect as you think about your life?
- When you examine the motivation of your heart for the service you give for the Lord and for his Church, what motivations do you see? How do you deal with the confusion and impurity of so much that is in your heart?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend a few minutes remembering as much as you can from Richard Pratt's sermons during the World Mission Conference. What in your life needs to be different in light of what you heard this past weekend? Consider whether God might be leading your family to participate in Faith Promise. Pray for lasting fruit from the conference. Thank God the members of FPC's Mission Committee. *Remember that you can download FPC sermons from www.fpckosciusko.org or by free subscription from iTunes.*

Tuesday: Read Luke 10:38-42. Drawing or acting out the story might be a fun way to make the story come alive in your children's mind.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Read v.38-42 together again. Ask your child to name some ways that we can serve Jesus. Ask your child to name some

ways that we can listen to Jesus. Think about people in our church who serve and who make it possible for us to hear God's Word.

Friday: Let each member of the family talk about things that are important to him/her. Then have each family member talk about things that we know are important to Jesus. What things are important to both?

Saturday: Quiz your children on Catechism questions or Bible memory verses they are learning. Pray for Phillip and Grant, who are preaching tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.

Notes and thoughts...

An "out of place" story: This brief incident with the two sisters took place at Bethany. Other accounts of Mary and Martha (John 11:1-12:2) indicate that Bethany was a mere two miles out from Jerusalem. Therefore, the incident could not have taken place at this point in the Travel Narrative. So what is up with it being here in Luke's gospel? Luke has placed it here to alert us to something special—some connection to the foregoing material—the mission to the Samaritans and the parable of "the Good Samaritan." It could very well be that Luke is emphasizing that active, messy, hands-on "neighborliness" is wonderful, but listening to and putting into practice the words of the Master are also necessary.

Bethany: **Bethany**, identified in John 11:18 as being 2 miles from Jerusalem, this village is the Bethany most commonly mentioned in the Gospels (see Mark 11:1; 14:3; also Luke 24:50), but it is different from the Bethany mentioned in John 1:28, where John the Baptizer was preaching and baptizing. Bethany is almost certainly the modern village of El-Azariyeh (an Arabic place-name which likely recalls the name of Lazarus) on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives. A fourth-century chapel was built over a rock-cut tomb

traditionally thought to have been the tomb of Lazarus. Other first-century tombs are found in the hillside around this chapel.

"Get back in the kitchen, woman!" Most of Jesus' contemporaries did not regard women as possessing minds capable of being taught deep truths and thus, rabbis did not have female disciples. In that time, testimony from a woman was inadmissible in a court of law. But Jesus very clearly had female disciples, and he does regard women as capable of being taught and of teaching others.