

“Choosing what is Best”

Luke 10:38-42

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I. Introduction

- A. We come to our study of Luke’s gospel to one of the most beloved stories in the Bible
 - 1. It’s found only here in Luke chapter 10
 - 2. *“The unfailing human interest perfectly expressed than by this exquisite scene in the home at Bethany.”* – Charles R. Erdman
 - 3. It seems that Luke has not placed this story in chronological order, but in topical order
 - a) It comes immediately after the parable of the Good Samaritan
 - 4. The story makes the point that fellowship with the Lord, and waiting quietly to have His Word, is more important than bustling busyness in His service
 - a) Our work for God must flow out of our worship of God
 - b) The highest priority of the Christian life is loving God and feeding on His Word

II. The Family Jesus Loved (Luke 10:38)

- A. The time (v.38)
 - 1. “It came to pass as they went” (v. 38)
- B. The place (v. 38)
 - 1. “He entered into a certain village” (v. 38)
 - 2. Bethany (John 11)
- C. The home (v. 38)
 - 1. “A certain woman names Martha received him into her house” (v. 38)
 - 2. Jesus had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58)
- D. The family Jesus loves
 - 1. Martha
 - 2. Mary
 - 3. Lazarus (John 11)

III. The Sisters Jesus Loved (Luke 10:39-40)

- A. Mary (v. 39)
 - 1. Mary is seen three times in the gospels, and on each occasion, she is found at the feet of Jesus
 - a) She’s listening to His Word (Luke 10)
 - b) She’s pouring out her sorrow (John 11)
 - c) She’s pouring out her perfume (John 12)
 - d) It’s interesting that in each of these instances, there is some kind of fragrance
 - 1) Luke 10- It’s food
 - 2) John 11- It’s death
 - 3) John 12- It’s perfume

2. The picture of Mary here in verse 39 teaches us that the important principle and life's highest priority are worship, fellowship, and the intake of His Word.
 - a) Worshipping God and hearing His Word is not an option for quality living—it's a necessity
 - b) It's essential for Spiritual health
 - c) We must make the priority of our lives sitting at the feet of Jesus
 - d) Our service for God to others must flow out of our fellowship with God
 - e) What we do with Christ is far more important than what we do for Christ
 - 1) If it doesn't, we get into big trouble
- B. Martha (v. 40)
1. As Mary was worshipping, Martha was working and worrying
 2. She was letting her service for Christ pull her away from Christ
 - a) She lost her joy
 - b) She questioned the Lord's care
 - 1) "Lord, don't you care?" (v. 40)
 - c) She was upset with her sister
 - d) She tells Jesus what to do
 3. The same danger for those serving the Lord today
 - a) We get "tunnel vision"
- C. Contrast Mary and Martha
1. Mary was resting, and Marth was restless
 2. Mary was worshipping, and Martha was worrying
 3. Mary was sitting, and Martha was stewing
 4. Mary was listening, and Martha was lashing out
 5. Mary was commended by Jesus, and Martha was corrected
 6. "Faithful to my Lord's commands, I still would choose the better part. Serve with careful Martha hands and loving Mary's heart." –Charles Wesley

IV. The Loving Correction Jesus Gave (Luke 10:41-42)

- A. Martha was careful (worried) and troubled (v. 41)
1. Don't let good things keep you from the best thing
 2. Remember, man does not live by bread alone
 - a) "Seek ye first..." (Matthew 6:33)
 3. "But one thing is needful" (v. 42)
 - a) "Without me, ye can do nothing" (John 15)
 4. Are you choosing the better part? (v. 42)
 - a) The priority of time alone with God?
 - b) Sitting at the feet of Jesus?
 1. Prayer
 2. Reading His Word
 - c) Taking time to worship at His feet?