

D2 & D3: The Home & Ministry – Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Luke 10:38-42

38 "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Introduction:

What this passage is NOT about:

- Personality types
- Showing that Mary was unwilling to serve
- How to be balanced between Martha-type ministry and Mary-type solitude
- Showing us that we can be unconcerned about serving

Prov. 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

I. A Heart to Serve, 10:38

II. A Heart Engaged, 10:39

III. A Heart Distracted, 10:40-41

1. How Martha is described
 - Distracted (v. 40):

 - Worried (v. 41):

 - Bothered (v. 41):

2. A Biblical perspective on service
 - Examples of service in the early church:
 - Phoebe—Rom. 16:1-2

 - Priscilla—Rom. 16:3

 - Lydia—Acts 16:14-15

 - Peter's Mother-in-Law—Luke 4:39

 - the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:30-37

- Martha's excessive service

- Other things which can tempt us to sinful distraction and worry
 - Fear of man—Prov. 29:25
 - Selfishness
 - Misplaced priorities
 - Other...

3. Martha's choice

4. The bitter fruit of Martha's sinful distraction

- Blaming/accusing
 - toward Jesus

 - toward Mary

 - example of Jesus' disciples—Mark 4:35-40

- Being self-centered (concern w/ being left alone in her excessive service)

- Bossiness (pride, judgment)

- Blindness to her own sin

- Bitterness

IV. A Heart Set Right, 10:41-42

- Prov. 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

- John 12:2

V. A Heart that Feasts, 10:42

1. "...for Mary has chosen the good part..."

- the choice

- what it takes

- its fruit

"You are not losing time while you are feeding the soul."
--Charles Spurgeon

2. God as our portion:

- Ps. 73:26

- Ps. 142:5

- Ps. 119:57

3. Gospel hope for sinfully distracted hearts

“Mary chose what was for the benefit of her soul. She was seeking more grace. She was striving after closer communion with God and his Christ. This was the portion which she preferred to everything else and to which she was willing for a time to postpone all earthly care. Those who seek such a portion will never be disappointed. Their treasure will never be taken from them.”

--J. C. Ryle, *Commentary on Luke*

Questions for you to consider:

Are you a servant of Jesus Christ?

Have you been brought to the end of yourself and your bondage to your sin?

Do you understand that it is only the cross of Jesus that can free you from the bondage that you have to your own will?

If you are a servant of Christ—how would you describe your service lately?

What are you doing with your heart to prepare you for God-honoring service?

What kind of choices have you been making?

Have others been hurt by your fretful heart, your blaming, your bossiness, or your bitterness?

Will you seek them out, and ask them to forgive you?

Have you spoiled relationships in your household or in your service?

And Now:

Remember Jesus' words to Martha...

think how Jesus was ready to shepherd Martha,

and know that He's ready to help you shepherd your heart back to Himself.