

Sunday Morning, January 17, 2021  
The Good Samaritan; the Rest of the Story  
Luke 10:38–43

- I. Christ Is Not Contrasting What Is Sinful vs What Is Holy
  - A. Martha Was a Believer with Mary and Lazarus Jn. 11:25
  
  - B. Martha Was Attending to Legitimate Needs
    - 1. Legitimate Needs. Bible Doesn't Teach Dualism
  
    - 2. Legitimate Service. It Was Good for Martha to Provide for the Group to Eat
  
    - 3. Legitimate Time. It Was a Great Illustration of the Good Samaritan Lk. 10:36–37
  
- II. Christ Is Contrasting What Is Good to What Is Best
  - A. Mary Had the Right Priority
  
  - B. Martha Received the Rebuke— Why?
    - 1. For Her Attitude to Mary
  
    - 2. For Her Unbalanced Priority 10:40
      - a. Point of the story is not for Martha to stop serving and listen to Jesus
  
      - b. Point is not that Martha was doing too much
  
      - c. Point is that Martha was being called to do her service with the same *love* for Christ as Mary had. Martha, keep focused, *why* are you doing all this service and hospitality?

Stated in positive: personal relationship to Christ, and love for Christ must be reason/focus for all work and ministry

Stated in negative: legitimate demands of service, ministry and needs are not the priority unless done for Christ and out of love for him.

## Quotes

“We are, most of us, not tempted to reject the Lord or to become indifferent to living for him. We love him and we want to serve him. Our danger is far more likely to be distraction such as Martha experienced. We are busy with all the things we have to do — duties and obligations that we must fulfill. Things at home, things at work; activities and responsibilities with our wives or husbands, with our children, with our Christian friends, with the church, and with our neighbors. Our lives are crowded with important, necessary things that must be done. We fully intend to serve the Lord in and by doing all of this, but by a subtle, unrecognized, and unwitting loss of perspective *we allow these activities and these duties to displace the Lord himself and his presence at the center of the consciousness of our hearts*. We are just doing, we are not in all of that doing actively believing in the Lord, loving him, and acting in the conscious awareness of his presence with us. And, as any thoughtful Christian knows from experience, this unmindfulness of the Lord, this lack of concentration on him, this busyness in which we are forgetful of him and his grace and his presence happens every day and without our conscious recognition. Such it was in Martha’s case and such it very often is in ours. *Our Christian life in this way is reduced, at least at that moment, to a set of beliefs and a system of duties; it is not at the moment an affair of the heart, an active dependence of our souls on him, a seeking of the Lord Jesus himself*.

“That was Martha’s mistake. She should have realized that she was serving the Lord, that he loved her for that service, that it counted for even more because she was doing it for him and doing it alone, and that he would never fail to appreciate her sacrifice because he loved her and loved what she was doing. She should have reveled in the fact that she was making it possible for her sister to sit at the Lord’s feet. But too often the person of Jesus himself recedes into the background and activities replace him in our active consciousness, even those activities that we are ostensibly doing in his name or for his sake.” —Rayburn

“I began to live as if there were no one save God and me in the world. . . . The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament. . . . As often as I could, I placed myself as a worshiper before him, fixing my mind upon his holy presence, recalling it when I found it wandering from him. This proved to be an exercise frequently painful, yet I persisted through all difficulties.”

Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*