

This passage is about Martha and Mary of Bethany, their interaction with the Lord Jesus continues to be instructional for us. Luke 10:38-42

We know that they lived in Bethany from John 11; we know from that passage that they had a brother named Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. We also know from John 11, that Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Luke tells us that the Lord Jesus and His disciples came to Bethany where MARTHA received Jesus into her house.

Amazing... Martha had a house, but Jesus didn't! The Son of Man did not have a palace, home, or any permanent place to lay His head, but in His earthly life, He received the kindnesses of ANY who would receive Him into their homes.

What a great honor and privilege for Martha to welcome the Lord Jesus into her home, and NOT just the Lord, but His disciples as well, and perhaps others! This speaks of Martha's kindness and hospitality to invite 13 men into her home, whom she desired to feed and refresh after their journey.

Mary is OFTEN the focus of this passage, but we must not pass over Martha's kindness and hospitality toward the Lord Jesus and His disciples!

We ought TO ALL be like Martha in this respect to always be ready to gladly receive the brethren and to care for their earthly needs.

Matthew 25:35-40, Galatians 6:10, Proverbs 3:27-28

While they sat and waited, Jesus began to teach His disciples and any others who had gathered at Martha's house... we know this to be true because Luke wrote:

"And she (Martha) had a sister called Mary, WHICH ALSO sat at Jesus' feet, (that is, with the others that were already sitting at Jesus' feet hearing His Word), when Mary heard Jesus teaching, she chose to sit down with the others to hear the Lord.

What an opportunity for her, to hear the Words of Christ, an opportunity that she would not miss!

"BUT MARTHA was cumbered about much serving":

I kind of picture Mary helping Martha prepare the meal right after Martha invited them all in, but then, when she heard the Lord begin to teach, her heart yearned to sit listen as well.

So, Mary left Martha ALONE to serve the food while she sat at Jesus' feet along with all the others, that is because she desired bread from heaven, spiritual food. Matthew 4:4 Mary's heart attitude was, I NEED to hear this, its' food for my soul...But Martha was so focused on serving, she heard none of Christ's Words. That is because her

attitude was, I NEED to SERVE THIS MEAL...and I need to get everything on my list done!

Martha (bless her soul) was so consumed WITH SERVING Christ, and making sure He and His disciples got fed, she missed the best part of having Christ in her home! She should have turned the oven off and sat at Jesus' feet next to her sister. Feeding on His Word was more important than feeding Him! Martha became so irritated; she accused the Lord of NOT CARING about her because she had so much to do... Luke wrote "she was cumbered about much serving" ... she chided and scolded the Lord!

Lord, don't you care that Mary has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me!

Let me say right here that WE OUGHT TO SERVE the Lord with passion and zeal like Martha! But when we become so focused on serving Christ that it causes us to stray from Christ, and miss an opportunity to learn Christ, our service has become a sinful snare!

Beloved we must be careful of being so busy serving in our Christian lives, that WE end up NEGLECTING that which is most needful for our souls!

I love the Lord's answer to Martha: "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about MANY THINGS: (not just serving this meal) ...Martha was a busy bee... But one thing is needful (FOR YOU, saith the Lord), and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken from her"

Beloved, LIFE is busy, your Christian life will become busy... but be so careful of falling into the trap of being "cumbered with much serving", you might indeed be zealously serving Christ and missing Him all at the same time.

We all have our list, don't we? THINGS WE NEED TO DO!

That's fine... but make sure you take care of that which is MOST needful for your soul. When it's time to sit at the feet of Christ, and read His Word, or seek Him in prayer, or when we are gathered together...it's time to drop everything else and sit at His feet and listen!