

Saved to Be Served So We Will Serve – Part 1

Luke 10:36-42; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; July 30, 2017

The Call to Serve

³⁶ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' *hands*?" ³⁷ And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

1. The story of the Good Samaritan and the story about Mary and Martha are both about serving.

- Doctrine of serving: Galatians 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 22:3
- The story of the Good Samaritan tells us that we are to serve our 'neighbor.'
- The story about Mary and Martha highlights Martha's attempt to serve the Lord Jesus and his rebuke of her. We need to see the connection between the two.

2. There is a connection between the story of the Good Samaritan and the story about Mary and Martha.

- The story of the Good Samaritan and this story about Mary and Martha are unique to Luke (Morris)
- These two stories do not appear to be in chronological order but are placed together by Luke to tie them together for the sake of communicating truth (Morris)
- Luke is not mainly interested in chronology, rather his arrangement is often topical. The evangelist could not have chosen a better place to put this narrative because the story of the Good Samaritan highlights the second table of the Law (Ten Commandments) and this story highlights the first table. (Hendriksen)

3. The story of the Good Samaritan can sound like Sunday School 'moralism': this how God wants us to live, now 'go and do the same.'

- 'Go and do the same' is meant to destroy our attempts to justify ourselves.
- 'Go and do the same' is meant to reveal the glory of Christ.
- 'Go and do the same' is meant to highlight the path of expressing our trust and love.
- Doctrine of the Law: Galatians 2:16; Galatians 2:21; Galatians 3:2-3; Galatians 3:24; Galatians 4:4-5

4. The story about Mary and Martha highlights the truth that the story of the Good Samaritan is not primarily about our serving others but about God serving us so we will serve others in the right way with the right heart.

- Go and serve your neighbor like the Good Samaritan is not the primary point of the story.

- We might think that Martha is being a ‘Good Samaritan’ in her serving but she obviously isn’t from the Lord Jesus’ perspective.
- It is possible to see the serving of Martha as in the same category of the serving of the lawyer – a way of ‘justifying ourselves’!
- We can be involved in ‘mercy ministries’ (relieving need and pain) in such a way that we are trying to earn ‘mercy’ for ourselves!

The Readiness to Serve

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

1. The Lord Jesus enters the home of a family that he dearly loved.

- Jesus and the Twelve were traveling (Luke 9:51) (Hendriksen)
- This certain village must be Bethany (John 11:1; 12:1-3) – less than 2 miles east of Jerusalem and on the eastern slope of Mt of Olives (Hendriksen)
- Martha was the older of the two sisters and the owner of the home (Morris)
- Lazarus was their brother (John 11:5) (Hendriksen)
- ‘welcome’ means to ‘welcome, receive’ not invite (Hendriksen)

2. Martha was a true believer.

- The story has a glorious ending because Martha later makes two of the most marvelous professions of faith found in Scripture (John 11:21-27) (Hendriksen)

3. Martha was doing a wonderful thing.

- Doctrine of hospitality: Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Timothy 5:10; Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9

4. Martha was doing an expected thing.

- Martha welcomed Jesus and began to do what ‘welcoming’ looked like in that culture: preparing a meal and attending to their needs. - Genesis 18:1-8; John 2:1-11
- Every culture has a set of expectations that can rule our lives and prevent us from adjusting according to the need of the moment or proper priorities. – Mark 7:1-13

Conclusion

We are called to serve.

But how and why we serve is very important.

Resting in Jesus? Hoping in God? Pursuing Love?

How are you serving your family? Your workplace? Your neighbors/community? Your church?