

The Story of Mary and Martha

Luke 10: 38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Lessons of the Story

1. It was not as important to do things for Jesus as it was to spend time *with* Him. Jesus didn't want a dusted floor or fresh loaf of bread. He wanted people. And that is how He feels about us, too! What's important is not just what we know or say or do...it's how we love God. We can breathe and pause and rest in His presence. He is always there for us!
2. This is not an excuse to be lazy, and not take responsibility for anything. We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only! (James 1:22) But what we do has to be led by the Spirit, whose voice we learn to hear by choosing the good part. There is no blessing in running our own lives based on our human understanding of what is important. Mary understood that she needed to learn more of her Master and to seek the things that have eternal value. It's when we do that that we can be a blessing, because then all of our works are Spirit-driven. Love causes us to listen, to learn, and to keep His commandments. (1 John 5:3)



Service Ideas

Create a card or picture for someone you appreciate. Give it to them and thank them for everything they do for you.

Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for the story of Mary and Martha and showing me how important it is to spend time with You. Help me to slow down and enjoy the quiet. Help me to find a balance between work and worship. Thank you for your love and for your son Jesus. It is in his name I pray. Amen.

Devotional/Journal Time

Sometimes we only think about ourselves and what we want to do. But we need to seek God's will for our lives. If we don't stop and spend time with God, we might miss out on something He wants to show us. He might be trying to teach us something, but we are so "busy" we don't stop to listen to Him! He might be telling us to go help someone. We have to be willing to listen to God by praying and reading His Word daily.

1. Do I have my priorities in order?
2. Like Martha, am I worried or anxious about many things, or, like Mary, am I focused on listening to Jesus and spending time in his presence?
3. Have I put devotion to Christ and his word first, or am I more concerned about doing good deeds?

Ideas for Spending Time with God

1. Music – listen to worship music. You can listen while you do chores, exercise, or even while you're eating dinner with your family
2. Journal – Choose a journal to write all of your thoughts, feelings and prayers in. God is always listening!
3. Poetry – Write out your thoughts and prayers in a poem. Look up poetry online about worship and prayer.

Music Suggestions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbWQV3OiRqA> ← First by Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHLEZzyAZrl> ← Stand In Your Love by Bethel Music & Josh Baldwin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrTv39-IG4M> ← Yes I Will by Vertical Worship