

Tommy Meador / General

The Gospel of Luke / Jesus visits Mary and Martha / Luke 10:38–42

Introduction

- <https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/live-snake-found-bag-broccoli-pretty-frightening-says-grandfather> - Why I don't eat vegetables!
- I could come up with a million excuses for why I don't eat my vegetables, but the bottom line is I don't like them. I know I need to eat them, I just don't want to.
- For some of us, we could come up with a million excuses for why we're not growing in our relationship with Jesus, but bottom line is we just don't want to. BUT... there's nothing more important in this life than growing in a relationship with Jesus because real life is in Jesus!
- What an invitation! The God of all creation invites us into an intimate relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus! Yet, we struggle
- A powerful story that reminds us that Jesus is more interested in you grow in your relationship with Him than He is in you staying busy for Him.
- How do I grow in intimacy with Jesus? This story reminds us of two ways we can grow in intimacy with Jesus.

I must stop letting my sinful attitudes pull me away from Jesus.

- In an ancient culture, not many virtues were as highly regarded as hospitality. A rabbi like Jesus depended on the hospitality of others. As Jesus traveled from town to town, there weren't Holiday Inns. There was no AirBNB, no Chik-fil-a, Door Dash, Uber Eats, etc.

- [Luke 9:58](#): the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. In [Luke 10:1-12](#), Jesus and followers dependent on hospitality of others. He told them to take nothing with them and depend on the hospitality of others.
- Just outside of Jerusalem, in the small village of Bethany, a brother, Lazarus, lived with his two sisters, Mary and Martha.
- On this day, BOTH women want to honor Jesus.
- Martha was the epitome of hospitable - don't know how this family knew Jesus, but Martha wanted to make an impression.
- While Jesus and his disciples settled into Martha's home, Martha was hard at work. She made sure everything was in its proper place, and in the kitchen, she was hurriedly preparing a feast. Familiar scene. You remember growing up going to grandma's house - no one sees grandma because she's hard at work in the kitchen preparing a feast.
- From our perspective, Martha is the epitome of a servant. She's giving her absolute best. She's devoted in her service. She's working hard.
- We want more Martha's in the world - men and women who work hard, serve tirelessly, and give their best. We hold up the Martha's of the world as people that we should exemplify.
- In the midst of her hard work, she sees Mary out of the corner of her eye. If you were in the house that day, you might think that Martha was the epitome of a servant while Mary was the epitome of laziness.
- "Jesus, don't you care? You see Mary's laziness? Tell her to do something..." Martha knew Jesus would side with her.
- Shocked by His response: "Martha, calm down. Mary's done the right thing..." Martha thinking, "Sitting around is the right thing?"
- Only one woman in this story with her eyes actually on Jesus. It's possible to do a lot of Christian stuff without having your eyes on Jesus.
- Nothing wrong with Martha's service, but a sinful heart kept Martha from growing in faithfulness to Jesus.
- **Beware of a distracted heart.** She was so caught up in duty for Jesus that she had no time for devotion to Jesus. Nothing wrong with what

Martha was doing. She was doing good things! It's what she wasn't doing. Jesus doesn't come to your house often. While everyone needed to eat, dinner could wait.

- Dinner can wait... There's probably much in your life that can wait - even good stuff - that's keeping you from what doesn't need to wait. A lot of you are doing the right stuff, but you neglect the best stuff: devotion to Jesus. Maybe you can even make a list of all you're doing for Jesus, but you can't really tell me who you're becoming in Jesus because you lack in devotion.
- **Beware of a self-pitying heart.** A self-pitying heart says, "Jesus, look at me! Look at what I'm doing! Aren't you proud of all I'm doing!" You feel sorry for yourself because you don't feel like you're noticed or that any one cares about all your hard work. We've all been there. And, deep down, you just want some attention; to be noticed. You're saying, "Look at me," while Jesus is saying, "Look at me. Look at my faithfulness to you. Gaze at me." Faithful to God on your terms vs. faithful on His terms.
- **Beware of a resentful heart.** Martha angry - angry with Jesus. "Why doesn't He scold Mary?" Angry with Mary. "Who does she think she is?" That resentment can lead to self-righteousness. "I'm better than..."
- These sinful attitudes can keep us from growing in faithfulness because these sinful attitudes are self-focused rather than focused on the faithfulness of Jesus. Rather than rejoicing in who Jesus is and devoting ourselves to Him, we feel sorry for ourselves. We become increasingly critical, and find fault with others. Repent of these sinful attitudes!

I must start focusing on spending time with Jesus.

- Martha was serving but consumed by what she could do for Jesus. "Look at me. I want to impress you." Mary serving by opening her heart to what Jesus wanted to teach her. "I'm looking at you. I'm impressed by you."

- What it must have been like in that moment for Mary. This was a rare opportunity. I don't know exactly what Mary knew about Jesus, but there she sat at the feet of Jesus expressing devotion to Him.
- **Mary sat.** (Imagine a grown woman sitting Indian style before Jesus.) A posture of submission and faith. Remember story of Jairus? He fell at the feet of Jesus ([Lk. 8:41](#)). Mary sat - Jesus had something for her. She wanted to savor every word He said.
- **Mary focused.** Martha was distracted. Mary was not. Who knows how many were crowded in their small house that day. All 12 disciples? Just a few? Noise and commotion in the home. Maybe neighbors stopping by - they were curious about Jesus. The noise - disciples talking in a different part of the room. Martha making noise in the kitchen. But, Mary not distracted - would she ever have a moment like this again where she had the undivided attention of Jesus. For Mary, Jesus was the most important person in the room, and Mary made Jesus feel like He was the most important person in the room. Is Jesus the most important person in this room this morning?
- **Mary listened.** What did they talk about in those moments when Mary sat at the feet of Jesus? The weather? Judean politics? Sports? NO! Jesus feeding Mary the words of life. Like he had told the disciples, He was telling Mary what was coming. That He was going to die for her and rise again for her.
- **Jesus wants your company more than your service, but you're much more willing to give Him your service than your company, because your service doesn't cost you intimacy and transparency.** If you actually get alone with God, He might challenge you, convict you, and transform you. You don't want that...
- Easy to get people to serve... not so easy to get people to gather for prayer. Why? Doing trumps knowing. Christian faith isn't a call to come and do but to come and know.
- **A faithful life flows out of a devoted heart.** We're faithful to God because we're devoted to the One who devoted Himself to us. You're not going to be faithful to what you're not devoted to. How to I grow in devotion? Seems to be the lifelong struggle...

- **You need to sit. A commitment of the will.** Submission. He's God, I'm not. I answer to Him and Him alone. I sit in His presence knowing that the Judge of the universe is a kind and gracious God. "Not your will but my will," or, "Not my will, but your will."
- **You need to focus. A commitment of the heart.** Like my wedding day - hundreds of people in the room - my eyes were on one... my bride. Focus on the One who loves you more than anyone else in this world will ever love you. A world of distractions - what are you allowing to distract you from your relationship with Jesus?
- **You need to listen. A commitment of the mind.** Jesus has something to say that's worth hearing because He has the words of life.
- Until you make the decision to regularly sit, focus, and listen, you'll always struggle with growing in intimacy with Jesus.
- Jesus told Martha: this is the ONE THING that is necessary, yet we spend so much time allowing our minds to focus on and be consumed with what's not necessary.
- Jesus doesn't scold people for sitting, focusing, and listening. This is what He invites us to!

Because of devotion to Jesus, Mary understood the heart of Jesus.

- Some time later, Jesus back in Bethany. **(John 12:1-8)**
- A lot has changed. Lazarus died. BUT... Jesus brought him back to life.
- A familiar scene: a feast for Jesus. Martha serving. Mary probably helped too.
- Then, she does it again. She comes to the feet of Jesus, but this time with a jar of expensive perfume - worth a year's wages.
- Probably a family heirloom - She poured it over the feet of Jesus. The room filled with the aroma. She washed His feet with her hair. In that moment, her focus was totally on Jesus, and everyone else's focus was on her.
- She didn't care about what people thought... She had sat at the feet of Jesus. She knew Jesus was going to a cross to die. When Judas

objected to what Mary had done, Jesus said, “She’s preparing my body for burial.”

- What Judas didn’t know was that Mary was testifying. In this act, she was saying to everyone in the room, “I know who this is! He’s the Messiah who has come to die for me!” She was showing everyone at dinner who Jesus really was. She was putting Jesus on display as the King who would die and rise again!
- And that’s what He did... just a week later, Jesus went to a cross, died, and rose again for you: to show you the faithfulness of God. He is so faithful to you - doing what was necessary to purchase your salvation. This morning, if you’ll turn from your sin and unbelief, and trust Him, you can be saved.
- When you walk in intimacy with Jesus it SHOWS in the way you serve Him.
- Three simple questions:
 - **Who are you showing the world that you trust?** You are testifying every day that your life is in someone’s or something’s hands.
 - **What are you showing the world that you prioritize?** What do others see getting your time and resources?
 - **What kingdom are you showing the world that you are trying to build?** Your own kingdom? Building a successful life or a Christ-centered life?
- Fruit of Spirit - world needs to see faithful Christians. People who are devoted to Jesus and His mission.