

Worship & Serve

Luke 10:38–42

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Main Point

Prioritize hearing and treasuring Christ.

I. Introduction

- A. In the 21st century we are busy and easily distracted. From our smartphones to our smart tv to the endless streaming services we enjoy, it seems as though no point in human history has seen such a time of distraction as ours. *What you focus on is what you value and treasure.*
- B. The people of Christ are called to have a singular, heavenly focus (cf. Col. 3:1–3).
- C. The people of Christ treasure Him above all else (Col. 2:3). Indeed, He is the treasure hidden in a field (Matt. 13:44).
- D. We as believers in the 21st century are called to prioritize listening to Christ. We are called to treasure Christ. Do you?

II. Exposition

A. Christ Invited (10:38)

- 1. Mary and Martha lived in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem (cf. John 11–12).
- 2. They understood the significance of this traveling Rabbi and made the effort to welcome Him into their home, a custom that traveling Rabbi's would experience. Mary and Martha were hospitable (cf. Heb. 13:2).

B. Mary Focused (10:39)

- 1. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus as he spoke to her the Word of God. This was unusual, for most often women would be preparing the meal for the guests while the men spoke together.
- 2. Mary prioritized sitting at the feet of Jesus—intentionally (“who sat and heard His Word” demonstrates that she intentionally chose to listen than work on preparing the meal). She was eager to sit and listen to Christ.
- 3. Christ welcomes women to hear His teachings—an unusual thing for a Rabbi to do.

4. Luke emphasizes for Theophilus that disciples of Jesus, while they must serve others (as Jesus Himself taught; cf. Mark 10:45), must prioritize listening to the Word of God.

C. Martha Distracted (10:40–42)

1. Martha's Complaint (v. 40)
 - a) Martha is extremely unhappy with her sister—Mary left Martha with all of the work to do.
 - b) She questions the Lord's care and concern (assuming that He *does* care that Mary has chosen to abandon her societal responsibility as hostess). Her question implies that she expects the Lord to see her point of view and instruct Mary to help her.
2. Christ's Response (vv. 41–42)
 - a) Christ responds with *gentleness*: "Martha, Martha" (v. 41).
 - b) Christ responds with *awareness*: "You are so busy with what you are doing."
 - c) Christ responds with *correction*: "Mary has chosen what is best."
 - (1) Jesus says that "one thing is needed"—i.e., there is a scale of priorities and some things are good, but other things are *best*.
 - (2) Jesus says that Mary has chosen "that good part"—i.e., what is better than being the perfect hostess. She has prioritized what is more important: listening to Christ. Serving is good, but listening to Christ and treasuring Christ is best.
 - (3) Jesus says what Mary has chosen "will not be taken away from her"—i.e., the spiritual food she enjoys at the Word of God will last for eternity (in contrast to the food Martha was preparing, which would not satiate physical hunger for long; cf. Deut. 8:3; Luke 4:4).

III. Truths

- A. The people of Christ have a singular focus: *They humbly hear and obey Christ.*
- B. The people of Christ have a proper value: *They eagerly treasure Christ above all else.*
 1. Serving is good—Christ calls people to serve.
 2. Treasuring Christ is the foundation for service. Those who sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His Word will then be motivated to live it out.