

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Devotion vs. Distraction

Passage: Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus instructs believers that devotion to Him is far more important than being busy for Him.

I. Conflicted priorities (10:38-40)

- On the heels of Jesus' teaching about loving one's neighbor, here He highlights the love of God.
- They are continuing "on their way" to Jerusalem where He will fulfill God's redemptive purpose.
- Luke says "a village" while John tells us it is Bethany, some 2.5 miles southeast of Jerusalem.
- Martha & her presumably younger sister Mary (only John mentions Lazarus) invite Jesus to "her house."
- Some have suggested that this visit was during the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths celebrated in outside.
- Mary was seated at Jesus' feet listening, the typical position of a student of a rabbi. (the "chill" sister)
- Martha was "distracted," too busy with serving or making preparations. (the "responsible" sister)
- Martha became angry that Mary was not helping and demanded Jesus correct her sister's priorities.

II. A gentle rebuke (10:21-22)

- Jesus' reply was firm but compassionate recognizing her anxiety about being a good hostess.
- "But there is something more important than serving" Jesus said, and Mary has chosen it.
- Jesus would not rebuke Mary because her priorities were correct.
- "Mary was devoted, Martha was distracted." Doing for can never replace being with Jesus.

III. Application

- Replacing time devoted "to" Christ with doing stuff "for" Him is never an acceptable trade.
- Jesus will never ask you to do "for" Him instead of being "with" Him.
- Joyless servants are often those who spend little time with the Word, in His word.
- Joyless servants turn into frustrated servants who ultimately become angry servants.
- Pursuing excellence in ministry is great, but it's easy to care too much about stuff that really doesn't matter.
- Every servant has limitations. Learning to say No is just as important as learning to say Yes.
- Hospitality does not mean fancy or perfect. Genuine simplicity is all that is needed.