

When Service Sours
Luke 10:38-42

Our _____ becomes _____ when:

We become _____

We become _____

The _____ way:

Is being receptive to the _____ of _____.

Trusts that my presence _____ to Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. Sunday, the text showed us two sisters and a very interesting interchange with Jesus. Luke 10:38-42 sits after Jesus' teaching to "go and do likewise" to the expert in the Law (10:25-37) and before His teaching on prayer (11:1-13) and in a section of Luke in which Jesus is teaching the disciples important information they will need after he is gone. As a group read the passage before and after Luke 10:38-42. Why do you think Luke would have included this passage here?
2. How might you have felt if you had been present in the room when Martha came in and said what she did to Jesus? Have you ever found yourself in the middle of an awkward situation in which you did not know how to act? Have you ever been "Martha" and said something, maybe even accused someone, only to find out later that you were the one in the wrong? Share this with your group. How did the situation resolve? In hindsight, how could you have better handled it?
3. Often, we read this passage and think Martha was wrong because she was not in the room learning from Jesus. A closer look at Jesus' words shows us that Jesus was in no way upset with Martha because she was being hospitable but because of her attitude. Martha's words showed that her attitude was self-absorbed and self-righteous. Have you ever experienced a time when you were serving the Lord yet your focus was on yourself and not Jesus? Have you ever found yourself serving and thinking others who are not doing what you are doing are wrong? Or passing judgment on others for what they are doing or not doing in their service to the Lord? These are all indicators that our service may have gone or be going sour. Discuss these times with your group.
4. Martha accuses Mary of being in the wrong, but she is actually found to be in the right by Jesus. Mary was not where society would have expected her to be, yet she was doing exactly what was acceptable and commendable by Jesus. Have you ever found yourself in a place in which what you were doing was against societal norms or cultural expectations, but it was exactly where Jesus wanted you to be? How can what we learned from Mary be of help to you in these difficult times?