

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Mary chose the good portion by sitting at Jesus' feet, while Martha was distracted by service. Jesus affirmed that relationship with Him must come before service for Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Martha was so upset with Mary? What cultural and practical factors might have contributed to her frustration?
2. Jesus says "one thing is necessary." What is that one thing? How does Psalm 27:4 help us understand this?
3. The sermon mentioned that only men were typically allowed to sit at a rabbi's feet. How does this context change your understanding of what Mary was doing?
4. Do you naturally relate more to Martha or Mary in this story? Why?
5. Jason stated, "Service for God isn't a replacement for relationship with Him." Have you ever caught yourself trying to earn God's favor through good works? What did that feel like?
6. Dallas Willard said, "Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning." What's the difference between serving God to earn His grace versus serving because of His grace?
7. Anxiousness & trouble in our souls might indicate we're serving to earn rather than from relationship. Have you experienced this kind of anxiousness? How did you recognize it?
8. Mark 3:13-14 shows the pattern: be with Jesus first, then be sent out. How does our modern church culture sometimes get this backwards? How can we protect against this?
9. Revelation 2:2-4 warns the church in Ephesus about abandoning their first love despite their hard work. What are signs that a church (or individual) has abandoned their first love? What are signs of a healthy first love for Christ?

Practical Applications:

1. Option 1: Daily Time at Jesus' Feet | Commit to 15-30 minutes each day simply being in God's presence—not asking for things, not working through a to-do list, just sitting with Him through Scripture reading, worship, or silence.
2. Option 2: Service Inventory | Make a list of all the ways you currently serve (church, family, work, community). Next to each, honestly assess: Am I doing this to earn God's favor or because of His grace? What needs to change?
3. Option 3: Rekindle First Love | Do whatever you need to this week to rekindle your love for Christ. This might mean:
 - a. Journaling about what Jesus has done for you
 - b. Revisiting your salvation story
 - c. Spending extended time in worship
 - d. Sharing your testimony with someone

