

NETCAST SERMON NOTES

Series: Make Room

Date: September 6th, 2026

Title: The Good Portion

Speaker: Matt Chewning

Key Scripture: Luke 10:38–42, John 12:1–8 (with Romans 8:26, Psalm 27:4, 73:26, 139)

The Big Idea: Making room for Jesus is not about disengaging from hard work, but about guarding our hearts against distraction and comparison. When Jesus becomes our ultimate portion, we stop evaluating our worth against others and learn to serve from a place of deep connection rather than anxious performance.

Check Your Heart When You Question God's Care When Martha asks, "Lord, do you not care?", her question reveals an internal heart issue. When we find ourselves asking if God cares about our exhaustion or pain, we are letting anxiety interpret God's character through our circumstances, rather than interpreting our circumstances through the settled reality of the cross.

• **Expecting Others to Be Savior:** Martha asks Jesus to make Mary "help" her—using the same root word Paul uses for the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:26. She tries to make Mary her emotional support system to carry her anxiety, treating human help as a substitute savior. • **The Downward Spiral:** Martha's trajectory exposes how quickly spiritual distraction rots our inner life: Joyful serving to distraction to anxiety to agitation to comparison to resentment to accusation.

Jesus Is Your Portion—Stop Policing Everyone Else's In Luke 10, Martha is so focused on Mary's devotion that she stops looking at Jesus. By John 12, Martha is doing the exact same work of serving, but without anxiety or criticism. Jesus didn't need Martha to stop serving; He needed her to stop staring at Mary's plate.

• **Comparison Kills Devotion:** One of the clearest signs that Jesus is no longer our portion is when we become obsessed with everyone else's portion—their gifts, calling, or level of contribution. • **Eyes Up, Not Sideways:** Restoring your soul requires shifting your gaze from sideways comparison back to the beauty of Jesus (Psalm 27:4). When Jesus is enough, you no longer need anyone else's relationship with Him to look like yours.

Rest in Jesus, Then Work for His Mission This passage is not a spiritual excuse for laziness, passivity, or disengagement. Sitting at Jesus' feet as a disciple is designed to fuel high-capacity responsibility and active participation in the mission of God.

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Correcting Passive Disengagement: Rest and solitude are necessary, but using "rest" as a spiritual mask for disengagement—especially among men—is a distortion of Scripture. The gospel calls believers to work hard, provide, serve, and make their lives count. •

Proximity vs. Connection: Martha had Jesus in her house, yet her heart was being pulled away from Him. Physical proximity to church or religious activity is not a replacement for true, heart-level communion with Christ.

Call to Action / Reflection Question: Where have you allowed sideways comparison or resentment toward others to hijack your joy in serving Jesus, and what step do you need to take this week to get your eyes back on Him?