



## SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

**Luke, Part 37: One Necessary Thing - Luke 10:38-42 - August 3, 2025 - FBC Panhandle**

### SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Resources/Services for the “busy pastor”, too busy to pray, meditate, read, and study? Busy-ness for God can easily quench nearness to God.

Three Initial Observations (helpful, but peripheral to the actual point of the text):

1. **Jesus Had Friends**

- Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. - John 11:5

2. **Jesus Had Female Friends**

- We should model real friendship with the opposite sex in a way that never crosses lines into sexual sin.

3. **Jesus Taught/Disciplined Women**

- “Sitting at [a rabbi’s] feet” was terminology attached to theological training.

Martha: Welcomes Jesus into her house as he journeys towards Jerusalem. (v. 38)

She is *showing hospitality* to the one who has no place to lay his head. (Lk. 9:58)

Showing hospitality is a Christian virtue, see: Rom. 12:13 and 1 Pet. 4:9-10 - Martha is not out of line in welcoming Jesus OR working hard to make sure that he is comfortable and cared for.

Mary: Sits at Jesus’s feet and listens to his teaching. (v. 39)

She is taking advantage of her friendship with Jesus and his willingness to teach her.

Contrast with the lawyer, who “stood up” to confront Jesus in the previous passage. (Lk. 9:25)

Martha’s reaction to Mary (and Jesus!) reveals three common sinful attitudes (v. 40):

1. **Distraction**

- περίσπαιω (*perispao*) - “to be dragged away”
- When *serving Christ* becomes just *serving*.

2. **Self-Pity**

- “Lord, do you not care...?” (v. 40)
- Does anyone care?

3. **Resentment**

- My area of service is the most important and those who do not join me must be bad people.

The Confrontation and Tenderness of Jesus Christ

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary.”

Luke 10:41-42

Are you anxious and troubled about many things? Is the world just one big checklist that never gets completely checked off?

Many Things vs. One Thing

πολλά ὀλίγων (*polla oligon*), opposites side-by-side to show contrast.

The one thing is “the good portion” that Mary has chosen.

Interestingly - the word for “portion” could also be translated as a “meal”.

We all need **Mary’s heart** and **Martha’s hands**. So, understand: when Jesus calls himself “the good portion”, he’s presenting himself as *the one who feeds us*.

Martha gets it.

She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” John 11:27



### **SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. How can busy-ness for God become busy-ness that steals from God?
2. What did Martha do right? Where did Martha go wrong?
3. Is time with God just another item on the checklist of your life?
4. Have you experienced the slippery slope from distraction to resentment?
5. How can you flip the script — where your time with God changes from something you do for him into something that he does for you?
6. How can you cultivate a balance between Mary's heart and Martha's hands?