



Sermon Series: He Changed Me, Part 4

Sermon Title: The Good and the Better

Date: 4/2/2023

Luke 10:38-42

This passage is very practical and teaches us how to live the Christian life.

Big Idea: Have the heart of Mary AND Martha

As we live our lives as Christians, we should

BE HOSPITABLE TO OTHERS

Mary and Martha were two sisters from the town of Bethany. Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, and as they entered Bethany, somehow, they engaged in conversation with Martha. Martha shows hospitality and invites Jesus and His disciples to her house. She saw a need and was gracious and generous in meeting their need. Scripture commands us to have a heart of hospitality like Martha

1 Peter 4:9, Hebrews 13:2, Romans 12:13

Jesus himself commends hospitality. In one account, Jesus was invited to the home of a Pharisee named Simon, and a woman who we are told was a sinful woman came in and poured perfume on Jesus' head and cried at his feet, and then she wiped the tears off of his feet with her hair. Jesus addressed Simon the Pharisee. **Luke 7:44-46**

Martha was fulfilling a role that was understood and expected at that time, and She wanted everything to be nice and not seem like it was thrown together. That is how she showed her guests that she valued them. We can understand, Martha. People with the heart of Martha serve others. They have a valuable role in bringing people back through the doors of the church week after week. Without Martha, there is no one to greet you at the door, rock babies in the nursery, teach Sunday School to our children, or make coffee and put out snacks we enjoy after the service.

Martha's role was valuable, yet; she was not perfect (**Luke 10:40**). Martha was getting increasingly frustrated at her sister for not helping.

We can understand Martha's increasing frustration. Her sister was in the other room conversing with Jesus while Martha was running around trying

to get everything done and ensuring everyone had everything they needed. Jesus tenderly responds to her [Luke 10:41-42](#)

Notice Jesus didn't say Mary has chosen the good part, and Martha chose the bad part. Jesus never says that her being hospitable was a bad thing. He never tells her to stop doing what she was doing and sit and listen like her sister Mary.

PRIORITIZE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

[Luke 10:39, 42](#)

Jesus said one thing is necessary, and it will not be taken away. What did Mary have that was necessary? This one thing made it acceptable for her to neglect the expected duty of serving, and it was her listening to Jesus. All of the things that Martha does are temporary. They will fade away. That doesn't mean they weren't good and beneficial, but ultimately the food will be eaten, clean kitchens will get messy, and washed dishes will get dirty, but the words of Jesus will last forever, and they will not be taken away.

One thing necessary is to value the preaching of the work of God. When the word is preached, it cannot be taken away – it remains. It's something that a non-Christian worldview or the current culture can't take away.

The one thing necessary is to hear the word of the Lord. If you don't hear from God's word, then you have not heard the one thing that is necessary – the one thing that can never be taken away.

Mary choosing to sit with the disciples and listen to Jesus' words is a picture of the church, where God's word is preached. Jesus understood the value of community, and He expects us to value it too. The Bible tells us to gather together so we can worship. [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

Streaming church services, Podcasts, books, and conferences are wonderful additions to our spiritual lives. Still, nothing can replace participating in a consistent Christian community and gathering for worship. Listening to God's word and corporate worship are more powerful when experienced as a community of believers.

Martha and Mary demonstrate the importance of our service and worship of the Lord. Their attitude and approach towards Jesus are two fine illustrations of us Christians.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How does the body of Christ benefit when Christians have the heart of Martha**
- **What are the consequences of only listening to God's word and never applying it?**
- **Describe a situation when listening to God's word rather than serving others is more important.**
- **Why is it essential for Christians to gather together for worship?**
- **Describe a time when you went out of your way to be hospitable. How did that make your guests feel?**