

## **How To Overcome A Bad Attitude**

### **Series: How God Changes Our Attitudes**

**How different are you than your siblings?**

**What Does The Bible Say?**

38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. (Luke 10:38–40a NLT)

**Are you more interested in doing something for Jesus than being with Jesus?**

She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” (Luke 10:40b NLT)

**Do you try to force people to serve Christ the same way you do?**

41 But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42 There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41–42 NLT)

**Are you so busy serving Christ that you do not have time for Christ?**

25 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” (John 11:25–27 NLT)

**Martha later got her priorities straight and you can too!**

## **How Can You Obey?**

**Realize the more time we spend with Christ the better our attitude will be.**

**Why? the more time we spend with Jesus, the more we understand His kindness and forgiveness, and therefore, we automatically extend that kindness and forgiveness to others and ourselves.**

### **Additional Notes:**

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at [www.crosswaveschurch.com/host](http://www.crosswaveschurch.com/host). Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

### **Explore:**

Today's Insights to The Biblical World segment comes from the book: Heiser, M. S. (2018). Brief Insights On Mastering The

Bible: 80 Expert Insights On The Bible, Explained In A Single Minute (p. 73). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

**Explore:**

Martha's prodigious energies were focused on the Master's comfort.

She did not realize that a light meal and more time to hear Jesus' words would have been more appropriate.

Hughes, R. K. (1998). Luke: that you may know the truth (p. 396). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

**Explore:**

The sense of "distracted" here is "to be pulled away" or "dragged away." The implication is that Martha desperately wanted to hear Jesus herself, to be at his feet, but she was pulled away by her duties. Flitting about with her busy preparations, she inevitably caught bits and snatches of Jesus' words, and she was drawn to hear more. But the burden of the beautiful meal

kept dragging her back into the kitchen. How she wanted to be at Jesus' feet! But she told herself that true devotion is practical and that she must put her duty before her desires.

Hughes, R. K. (1998). Luke: that you may know the truth (pp. 396–397). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

### **Explore:**

Only Jesus speaks. For only Jesus understands the problem. The problem is not the large crowd. The problem is not Mary's choice to listen. The problem is not Martha's choice to host. The problem is Martha's heart, a heart soured with anxiety.

“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things” (v. 41). Bless her heart, Martha wanted to do right. But bless her heart, her heart was wrong. Her heart, Jesus said, was worried.

As a result she turned from a happy servant into a beast of burden. She was worried: worried about cooking, worried about pleasing, worried about too much.

Lucado, M. (1999). He still moves stones. Nashville: Word Pub.

**Explore:**

But what is interesting is not so much the content of that rebuke, but how he addresses Martha. He looks at her and he says, ‘Martha, Martha.’

This form of address, is a literary form used to denote intimacy. It is one thing to address a person by their first name, but to repeat it is to use a Jewish form of affection and intimacy.

Sproul, R. C. (1999). A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke (p. 230). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.

**Explore:**

This story is found only in Luke’s Gospel and is one of Luke’s banqueting scenes (see “Major Features and Themes” in the Introduction). “Luke appears not to have placed it in chronological sequence, for Bethany was near Jerusalem and at a later time Jesus was still far from the capital (17:11). He might

have placed it immediately after the preceding parable as a safeguard against any of his readers coming under the misapprehension that salvation is by works.

Trites, A. A., William J. Larkin. (2006). Cornerstone biblical commentary, Vol 12: The Gospel of Luke and Acts (p. 173). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

### **Explore:**

Martha illustrates a believer who is choked up with the cares of this life (the seeds which fell among the weeds in the Parable of the Sower). Consider the difficulties into which this error leads us: we get mad with fellow-believers; we get mad with our Lord; we fail to recognize the marvelous, miraculous visitation which God vouchsafes us; we rail at our Lord. And all this stupidity and frustration arises only because we have taken our eyes off Jesus and become concerned with worldly values, maybe even concerned with serving Him, as was Martha. Christ must be

central in the believer's life; even serving Him must be subservient to worshiping Him.

Mills, M. S. (1999). *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record* (Lk 10:38–42). Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries.

### **Explore:**

The waylaid man of the parable (verses 25–37) was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Now Jesus has arrived at Bethany.

But this visit must not be confused with those that took place a little later, closer to Passover (John 11:1, 2; 12:1 ff.).

Exactly when the incident now recorded occurred has not been revealed. This creates no real problem. Once Jesus arrived in Judea several visits to the hospitable home of true disciples and warm friends can have been made. A series of passages points in this direction (Matt. 21:17; 26:6–13—cf. Mark 14:3; John 12:1–8—Mark 11:11; John 11:3; and, as some see it, even Luke 21:37).



But Luke is not mainly interested in chronology. As has been indicated previously, his arrangement, though certainly logical, is often topical. Accordingly, the evangelist could not have chosen a better place to present the present narrative than he did. Active love for the neighbor is wonderful, but listening to and putting into practice the words of the Master are also necessary. We might even say: while the parable of The Samaritan Who Cared places the emphasis on the second table of the law, the present story stresses the first. “Love your neighbor” is followed by “Give heed to the word of God.”

Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke (Vol. 11, p. 597). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

**Explore:**

The question is asked at times, “But was not Jesus a bit unfair to Martha? After all, did she not have a case?” The following must be borne in mind:

- a. Except for the finishing touches, the meal should have been ready when Jesus and his group arrived. We have every reason to believe that he had taken care that this hostess knew about his coming. Was he not always sending men ahead to announce his arrival? See Isa. 40:3–5; Mal. 3:1; Luke 9:52; 10:1; 22:8.
- b. This also means that upon his arrival one of the sisters should have ... shall we say “entertained”?... the honored guest. Rather, “should have been ready to sit at his feet in order to listen to his words.” Not to do so would, even under ordinary conditions, have been impolite, contrary to good form, but in this case would have been most irreverent. Therefore Mary did exactly the right thing.

c. 10:40 “has left me,” etc., probably implies that at an earlier moment Mary too had done her part in the preparation of the meal.

Martha learned her lesson. She knew that Jesus’ words of reprimand had been spoken in love, for “Jesus was holding in loving esteem Martha and her sister and Lazarus” (John 11:5).

We are not surprised, therefore, that two of the most marvelous professions of faith found in Scripture were going to issue from the heart and lips of Martha:

“Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever thou wilt ask of God, God will give thee” (John 11:21, 22).

“Yes, Lord, I have believed that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, the One coming into the world” (John 11:27).

The story, therefore, has a glorious ending. God was glorified, and this is always what matters most.

Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke (Vol. 11, p. 600). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

### **Question 1 of 5**

Do you think Jesus was unfair to Martha? Should Mary have helped Martha in the kitchen?

### **Question 2 of 5**

Why do we get so busy serving Christ that we neglect spending time with Him?

### **Question 3 of 5**

Why do people force others to follow Christ the same way as they do?

### **Question 4 of 5**

What is the “one thing worth being concerned about” ( Luke 10:42) in following Christ?

### **Question 5 of 5**

What can people do to be able to spend more time in Scripture strengthening their relationship with Christ?