

House Party

Week 1 | Luke 10:38-42 (CSB)

SERMON QUESTION

Is Jesus just a house guest?

A home shaped by Jesus welcomes His presence, His Word, and His priorities.

SCRIPTURE

38 While they were traveling, he entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. **39** She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said. **40** But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand." **41** The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, **42** but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

SERMON MAP

1 Welcome the inconvenience of Jesus.	2 Welcome His Word into your home.
3 Fight distraction in the busyness.	4 Receive what cannot be taken away.

INTRODUCTION CUE

The church is not primarily a building. Jesus did powerful ministry in ordinary homes - at tables, with families, and in the normal spaces of life. This series asks: **Is my home being shaped by the presence of Jesus?**

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1.

Will you welcome the inconvenience of Jesus?

- Martha receives Jesus and a houseful of people. Her welcome is beautiful - and it is genuinely disruptive.
- Following Jesus in ordinary life will inconvenience our view of sin, our schedules, our resources, and our comfort.
- The invitation is not to welcome Jesus only when it is easy. He is Lord and treasure, worth rearranging life for.

ASK

When Jesus disrupts my plans, will I receive Him with **joy**?

2.

Will you welcome His Word into your home?

- Mary sits at Jesus' feet - the posture of a disciple. She gives Jesus attention and looks to Him for authority.
- A home is shaped by Christ when His voice has a real place in it: Scripture, prayer, conversations, daily attentiveness, and conviction.
- This is not another religious task. It is deciding whose voice gets the final authoritative word.
- Every home is shaped by voices: phones, schedules, news, perceived opinions, fears, and longings. Does the voice of Jesus have a real place in ours?

TRANSITION

Jesus is welcome. His Word is heard. Why, then, do we still treat Him like a guest? **Because, like Martha, we get distracted.**

3 Will you fight distraction in the busyness to focus on your relationship with Christ?

- Martha is not distracted by something evil; she is distracted by necessary service. Good responsibilities can become dangerous distractions when they pull us from the One we serve.
- You can have Jesus in your home and still be too distracted to enjoy relationship with Him. You can hear His Word without letting it settle into your heart. You can serve Jesus without being with Jesus.
- There is a difference between being a follower of Christ and simply doing Christian things. Being with Christ brings life; merely doing Christian things can become a dangerous distraction.

BROTHER LAWRENCE

The 17th-century Carmelite lay brother worked in a crowded monastery kitchen. He did not escape the ordinary work; he learned to do it with his heart turned toward God.

"The time of business... does not with me differ from the time of prayer."

The kitchen did not have to pull him away from God; it could become a place of communion with God. The goal is not always to do less. It is to meet Jesus in the middle of the real work of life.

PRACTICE

Kitchen: prayer. Commute: listening. Laundry: gratitude and intercession. The ordinary work of home can become a place to practice Jesus' presence.

4 Will you let Jesus give you what cannot be taken away?

- Martha asks, "Lord, don't you care?" Under distraction, frustration, and activity can lie a painful impression: Jesus does not see, understand, or care.
- Jesus responds, "Martha, Martha." His correction carries tender concern. He sees her worry and calls her back to what matters most.
- Martha thinks she needs Mary's help. Jesus says she needs something deeper: the good portion Mary has chosen.
- Jesus did not come merely to receive Martha's service. He came to give her Himself. On the way to Jerusalem, He is moving toward the cross to give His life as a ransom for many.

A PERSONAL WORD ON GRIEF

Dr. Sarah Brabant, a formative undergraduate professor, taught on death and dying and wrote *Mending the Torn Fabric*. Her image names grief honestly: death tears at relationships, routines, hopes, memories, and the places a person was woven into our story.

Death is a real tear. Yet death cannot take away the good portion Jesus gives. Jesus faced death, rose again, and made eternal life possible for everyone who trusts in Him. Death can take much, but it cannot take Christ. If Christ is ours, death does not get the final word.

PASTOR'S CHALLENGE

All this week, pray:

"Jesus, how do You want to be more than a guest in my home?"

Then be willing to welcome His answer - even if it inconveniences you.