



The Road Less Traveled:

Gospel of Luke.

In the middle section of the Gospel of Luke, we see a unique aspect of Jesus' ministry, His life and ministry on the road. We see Him interact with strangers, answer difficult questions, and teach with boldness. Along the way, Jesus teaches his disciples—and us as well—what the Kingdom of God is and what it means to follow Him.

WEEK TWO

VALUING THE KING

Message Passage: Luke 10:38-42

Small Group Passage: Luke 11:1-13

TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

Luke 10:38-39 *As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.*

What a beautiful image of what we are called to do. Sit at the Lord's feet and listen to everything that he has to say. "It is unusual for a woman in first-century Judaism to be accepted by a teacher as a disciple."¹

Luke 10:40 A *But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made...*

Jesus did not come alone— "he had twelve disciples with him who all needed to have their feet washed, to be made comfortable, and to have a meal prepared for them. A respectable hostess in the ancient world would extend all of these courtesies to his or her guests. The impression here, however, is that Martha was overdoing it. She wanted something extra special for the Master, but she let herself get to the

¹ Walter L. Liefeld, "Luke," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebeline, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 944.

point where she was worrying, overworked, and unable to enjoy these guests. In attempting to serve Jesus, she did not understand or attend to Jesus' reason for being there."²

Luke 10:40 B *She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

Somebody needed to play host. Martha was fulfilling her role as host. That was a highly valued task in that culture. **But rather than doing what she needed to do, she was consumed with what her sister was doing.** She was comparing her actions, faith, and obedience to her sisters. Then, she made the compounding mistake of assuming her actions were more righteous. **We do the same today!** We can easily become consumed with how other people are living their faith, becoming blind to our own spiritual pitfalls. Why? Because our pride and self-righteousness keep us blind to our own mistakes. Meanwhile, focusing on someone else's sins or potential sins can make us feel better and even give us a superiority complex.

Luke 10:41 *"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,*

You are worried or consumed by many things. Notice that these are not evil things. They are not inherently bad or sinful things. Martha was fulfilling a culturally expected and valued task, hospitality.

Luke 10:42 *but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

Mary had chosen to value Jesus, the King of Kings, with her attention and her time. What gets our time and our attention is what we value. Mary had chosen wisely.

When we value Jesus, we value what is eternal. There is nothing in this life that you will have in eternity, except your relationship with Jesus.

Application: This is a warning to us. What often keeps us from being at the feet of Jesus is not evil or even sinful acts. Good things can easily get in the way of seeking Jesus and spending time with Him.

² Bruce Barton et al., *Life Application New Testament Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2001), 301.

Segway to Small Group: God deeply desires this relationship with you. The question is, do we view God the Father as a loving Father who invites us into a relationship with Him?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What can we learn from Jesus' interaction with Mary and Martha?
2. What are you doing to spend unhurried time at the feet of Jesus? What gets in the way of spending intentional time with Christ in prayer or scripture?

Leader Note: The question above is not a guilt trip. There are times when life becomes very busy, and it's hard to spend unhurried time in prayer or reading scripture. Parents of young Children will struggle to find time alone. People who work long shifts will have some days that have little to no free time. This question is not meant to shame them. However, if we are honest with ourselves, our day is sometimes consumed by priorities that are far less important than the two examples given.

READ: Luke 11:1-13

3. Vs. 1 - Jesus modeled the need to spend unhurried and unrushed time with the Father by getting away to pray (5:16, 3:21, 6:12, 9:18, 9:28-29, 11:1, 23:46). Jesus did this despite having a very demanding ministry schedule. Jesus' disciples noticed this habit and wanted to have the same passion for prayer as Jesus modeled. What spiritual habits or values do you want to model for others (your kids, co-workers, family, etc)?

Leader Note (vs 2-3): "Luke's form of the Lord's Prayer is shorter than Matthew's (Matthew 6:9-13). Most likely, they were two distinct prayers on two different occasions. The differences in the prayers show that Jesus did not utter a rote prayer every time he prayed. Different occasions call for different utterances."³

4. Vs. 2-3 - In this passage, Jesus was not giving a prayer that had to be quoted solely. Although committing the Lord's prayer to memory is beneficial. Instead, Jesus was modeling what a healthy prayer life included. What topics or themes of prayer did Jesus address in this short prayer?

³ Bruce Barton et al., Life Application New Testament Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2001), 302.

Leader Note: Here are the themes and topics in the prayer that I see.

- *"Father, hallowed (or Holy) be your name"* - Prayers of worship
- *"Your kingdom come & your will be done in the Matt 6 version"* - Prayer for God's will to be evident in our lives and in the world.
- *"Give us each day our daily bread."* - Prayer for our daily needs. There is no need too small to take to God in prayer.
- *"Forgive us our sins"* - Prayer of confession.
- *"For we also forgive everyone who sins against us."* - Prayer over our faith. This is praying to reflect what God has done in our lives (forgiveness, love, mercy, etc...).
- *"Lead us not into temptation"* - Prayer for obedience. This can include praying for victory against temptation and spiritual warfare.

5. Vs. 5-8: What was Jesus' point about prayer in this parable?

Leader Note: Jesus was not comparing God the Father to a reluctant or selfish friend. Instead, Jesus was pointing out that if we are willing to ask with persistence and boldness for a simple loaf of bread from an unwilling friend, how much more should we do so with God? Unlike the friend, God is compassionate, patient, sovereign over all, and not limited in His ability to respond to our requests. As verses 9-10 attest, our problem is not asking God in prayer too much or too often. Instead, our problem is that our prayer life is not bold, persistent, and passionate enough to accurately reflect the love and power of the sovereign God we are praying to.

Leader Note: For further study on the need for persistent prayer in the Gospel of Luke, you can read Luke 18:1-8.

6. Vs. 9-10: What keeps us from praying with persistence and passion as verses 9-10 ask us to?
7. Vs 11-12: God is described as a loving Father repeatedly in scripture (Psalm 103:13, Deut 1:31, & Isaiah 63:16). Like a loving father, God desires a relationship with us. He desires for us to take every need to Him just as we would with a loving father. What does it look like to pray to God in such a way that reflects that he is a loving Father?

PRAYER TIME

While we should regularly take our requests to God in prayer, it is also important to praise God by thanking him for his love, kindness, and patience. Today's topic of valuing the King points towards this prayer theme.

Luke 11:5-8 should encourage us to pray with persistence and boldness. Therefore, do not be afraid to pray for a certain need in your group week after week.

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