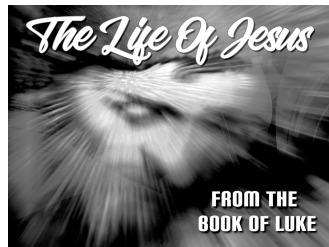


What the story of Martha & Mary tell us about life's priorities.

The Life of Jesus - Part 10 Noah Largent 3/9/19



Luke 9:38-42 New English Translation

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet & listened to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all the preparations she had to make, so she came up to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Tell her to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the best part; it will not be taken away from her."

1. When we pray, there is nothing wrong with making our requests known to God. However, it's not difficult to go from requesting to being demanding. Be on guard against believing that God should adopt your best ideas about life and that He should carry out your desires.

Luke 9:40 "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Tell her to help me."

Martha has a prayer life, doesn't she? She comes and says, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her to help me." That's a prayer. But notice Martha is after *things* in her prayer. When Mary comes to Jesus, she's after *Jesus*, and that's all the difference in the world. - Pastor Tim Keller

The Meaning of Jesus: Part 2; Following Him 3/2/03 Redeemer Pres. Church

2. As you examine the priorities of Martha & Mary in this story, you should also reflect on your priorities. Are you willing to rearrange your priorities so that you don't neglect to spend time listening and learning from Jesus? Remember that we, "don't live on bread alone but by every word that comes from the Lord." There is no doubt that serving is a central part of Christian living, but even serving can be a distraction from making time to listen to and learn from God.

Deuteronomy 8:3 "And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalms 119:97 How I love Your instruction! It is my meditation all day long.

"Mary has chosen the best part" Spiritual food should take priority over physical food. Martha's desire to provide hospitality was not wrong in itself, but at that moment she had her priorities wrong.

-Teaching the Text Commentary, R.T. France page 203

Notes:
