Mary or Martha?

Greg Kline · Luke 10:38–42

INTRODUCTION

- There are always at least three sides to every story.
- This morning we're going to examine the question of are we, am I more like Mary or more like Martha? As Jesus teaches a strong lesson in priorities.

1 They Were Both Doing Some Good Things

Luke 10:38–42

- The first thing you see is they were both doing some good things.
- Jesus did not condemn Martha for her hospitality. He did not say you were doing something wrong, you were doing something sinful, but rather he is teaching a lesson in priorities.
- Verse 42, but one thing is necessary. Mary's choice was the best. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.
- There's someone serving Jesus who wasn't given a pat on the back, but rather a challenge.

2 Excuses at the Great Banquet

Luke 14:16–24

- When we think about priorities and excuse making, Luke 14 stands perhaps above the rest.
- But they all alike began to make excuses.
- For I tell you, none of these men who were invited shall taste my banquet.
- There's nothing inherently sinful about buying a field. There's nothing inherently sinful about buying five oxen and examining them. But as you consider the excuses that were made, Jesus was not being put first.

3 One Thing Is Necessary

Luke 10:39–42; Luke 9:57–62; Colossians 3

- He doesn't just point out Mary. He says, one thing is necessary.
- Putting Jesus first is more than just doing a bunch of good things. It's listening to and being changed by the word of God.
- No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.
- It's not just about doing good things, but it's about doing the best thing.

4 Putting Christ First Necessitates Serving Others

Luke 10:25–27; John 13:34–35

- Putting Christ first absolutely necessitates serving others. But that doesn't mean that should surpass everything else in its place.

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.
- He stopped and took care of somebody in need. He showed true love for his neighbor.
- Mary is focused on the first part of verse 27.

5 We Have a Priority and Busyness Problem

Luke 9:62

- We often substitute God in where we have cracks in our schedule rather than putting God in first.
- If we're not put in God first, it will show.
- It's not a conceptual problem at all. We have a priority and busyness problem.
- We're making our choice, even though we'd never say the words, I put Jesus second out loud.

6 We Must Redeem the Time

Ephesians 5:15–17

- There's one necessary thing. We can't afford to miss it. We must redeem the time.
- Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise.
- It's a choice constantly between doing what is best in the kingdom or trying to make the kingdom fit around my time and my wishes and desires.
- Our time has to be spent wisely. It has to be spent in a planned way. Planning what? To put Jesus first, to meditate on the word, and to serve him.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **But do you trust him enough to obey? Do you love him enough to sacrifice? Have you counted the cost of following Jesus?**

MY NOTES