

## Sunday, November 26, 2023 | The Road to Redemption

### Week 6 | Luke 10:38-42 | “The Good Portion”

Last week, we discussed how to be a good neighbor. Whenever we see a genuine need, we ought to meet the needs of our neighbor. Make no mistake: we prove our allegiance to Christ by helping others. Loving acts are so integral to being a neighbor that, for Christ, **the term “neighbor” is not a label but a behavioral trait**. We must prove to be a "neighbor;" we are not one by default. Thus, you cannot be a good Christian and be a bad neighbor.

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Today, we'll be talking about *disordered* priorities. Life is a juggling act. We're constantly trying to manage family, work, and whatever else. And sometimes, amidst the commotion, we can lose sight of what's really important. Part of maturing is knowing when to stop the show, sit down, and reset.

For Christians, Jesus should be *first* on our list of priorities. We either make him the Lord of our life, or he is not our Lord. The Son of God plays second fiddle to no one. And this principle is especially applicable to those areas of our life which might be considered good—i.e., ministry, family, country, etc. When we invite the Lord into our home, he does not want us distracted by anything. He wants to find us sitting at his feet, learning from him.

I want you to notice two things:

#### i. **The hospitality of Martha (vs. 38-39)**

**READ:** Luke 10:38-39 (ESV)

<sup>38</sup> Now, as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.

Both Martha and Mary are presented as exemplary disciples. One opened her home to Jesus, and the other was found sitting at the Lord's feet. The Pharisees were harshly criticized for their lack of hospitality toward Jesus (cf. 7:36-50).

#### ii. **The hostility of Martha (vs. 40-42)**

**READ:** Luke 10:40-42 (ESV)

<sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help

me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

The Greek word used for "serving" indicates meal preparation. Likewise, "good portion" was a term used in the context of food. Thus, the Lord's praise of Mary was a play on words. She had chosen the main dish, whereas everything else was just the sides.

To be clear, "good" can also be translated as "better." Thus, it wasn't that Martha's work was sinful. It was that she needed to focus on something more important: Jesus. Food can wait when the Word incarnate is teaching. Hence, Martha was distracted by many good things whereas Mary was distracted by the best thing (e.g., majoring on minors, forest for the trees, etc.).

What happens if we forget to worship at Jesus' feet before we do anything else? We become distracted, anxious, and troubled. So much so that we might even lash out at others. We risk running over our own brothers and sisters. Many people have been hurt by well-intentioned loved ones who were more concerned with getting a job done than caring for others.

"Martha, Martha," indicates a tender response. The Lord wasn't upset with Martha. He wanted her to see that she needed to stop, sit, and listen. Jesus wanted her to rest in his presence.

### **So, what's the takeaway?**

The good disciple does not miss a chance to worship a great God before they begin a good work.

### **READ: Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)**

Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Once, the great reformer, Martin Luther, was asked what his plans were the next day, and he replied, "Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer!"

The duty of discipleship—i.e., hearing/obeying God's word—supersedes the duties of everything else—i.e., personal, familial, societal, professional, social, environmental, marital, material, maternal, ministerial, etc. Jesus first; everything else second. Being so focused on a good thing that you miss the best thing is a bad thing.

## Video Description

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SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

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**Pastor's manuscript can be found here:**

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