

If You Are  
Focused On  
Temporal  
Things...

**Stop It!**



Text: Luke 10:38-42 NAS 2020

**Introduction:** Dear friends: Let's be honest, *our lives can easily be consumed with temporal things* – ▶working, ▶eating, ▶playing, ▶sleeping!

- Each week God gives us a gift of **168 hours!**
- Each week we have a choice: ➔*be consumed with temporal things* **OR** ➔*put Christ and eternal things first!*

In this sermon, Martha and Mary had different thoughts on what is best. *Listen for Jesus' important instruction!*

1. **Dinner Invitation:** <sup>38</sup> **Now as [Jesus and His disciples] were traveling along, [Jesus] entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.**

- a. When Jesus and His disciples were Passing by Bethany: It seems that Jesus went into Bethany while His disciples kept going – possibly an additional two miles into Jerusalem.

b. Martha and Mary may have been important residents of Bethany: We know that many came to see them when their brother died ([John 11:18-19](#)).

2. **Eternal Focus**: <sup>39</sup> **And [Martha] had a sister called Mary, who was also seated at the Lord's feet, and was listening to His word.**

a. Mary, By Sitting at Jesus' Feet: She indicated that **He** was her teacher, and **she** was His pupil.

b. Mary was **Open** to Hear Jesus: [Jeremiah 29:13](#) "...you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

c. Many are **Closed** to Jesus: Therefore, [Mark 4:12](#) "...WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND **NOT PERCEIVE**, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND **NOT UNDERSTAND...**"

d. Lenski Summarized: "To receive the doctrine of Jesus with a [quiet] heart is better than any work, labor, sacrifice, or suffering. To close the ear, to turn the heart away, no matter what the cause, is bound to be fatal, for it shuts off the life stream on which our faith depends" (612-613).

3. **Temporal Focus**: <sup>40</sup> **But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to [Jesus] and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do the serving by myself? Then tell her to help me."**

a. Many Things to Prepare: Since Martha loved Jesus, *she wanted to make Him a very special meal*. Haven't we also gone overboard on some temporal things?

- b. Martha's Perspective: To her, *it seemed obvious that Mary should be helping her*. She also thought Jesus would agree. Like Martha, we generally think we are right, **but it is critical to be OPEN to Jesus!**
  - c. Martha Forgot Why Jesus Came: Jesus told us why, **Mark 10:45** "... [I] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give [My] life a ransom for many."
4. **Jesus' Love for Martha**: <sup>41</sup> **But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things..."**
- a. Martha, Martha: Jesus spoke her name twice to express His sincere love for her. Like when Jesus said, **Luke 13:34**, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her young under her wings..."
  - b. Diversions: That is the name of the comic section of the Plain Dealer (*which I do not endorse*). Today's world is filled with **many temporal things** that
    - ✦ consume our time and ✦ try to keep us away from Jesus! Good advice: **Eph. 5:15-16** "...be careful how you walk, **not** as unwise people **but** as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."
  - c. Good Intentions: Martha wanted to do something special for Jesus, *but Jesus wanted to do something **much more special** for Mary and Martha!* How is our current involvement in temporal matters **harming** or **destroying** our saving relationship with Jesus?
5. **Important Instruction for Us**: <sup>42</sup> **"...only one thing is necessary; for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."**

- a. What Is the Good Part? *It's the word of God!*
- b. Why Is the Bible Necessary?
  - i. *It shows us God's greatness!*
  - ii. *It identifies our sin!*
  - iii. *It tells us about Jesus and His work!*
  - iv. *It calls us to repent and believe!*
- c. What were Some of Mary's Blessings?
  - i. ***She understood the word of God!***
  - ii. ***She put Jesus first in her life!***
  - iii. ***She trusted in Jesus as her Savior!***
  - iv. ***She lived with peace and joy!***

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, **TYSM** for coming to serve us through Your life, death, and resurrection! ***Help us to put You first!***

Who were Lazarus, Martha, and Mary? See the footnote.<sup>1</sup>

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- a. <sup>1</sup> The Sisters of Lazarus: **John 11:1, 3** "...a certain man was sick: Lazarus of Bethany... So the sisters [Martha and Mary] sent word to [Jesus]..."
  - b. Friends With Jesus: **John 11:5** "Jesus loved Martha and her sister [Mary], and Lazarus."
  - c. The Mary Who Anointed Jesus with Expensive Perfume (John 12:1-8): **John 11:2** "...Mary... anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair..."
  - d. The Home Where Jesus and His Disciples Stayed during Holy Week: **Mark 11:11** "...after looking around at everything [on Palm Sunday], [Jesus] left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late."