

This week...

Monday Luke 10:38 *“As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him”*

Do a brief study of this family as found in Luke 10:38-ff, John 11:1-ff, and John 12:1-ff. Make a list of the character traits that you can pick out in each one. How would you define their strengths and weaknesses? Do you recognize anything in your life similar to their's?

Tuesday Luke 10:39-40 *“She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.”*

Why did Luke point out that Mary sat at Jesus' feet? What do you think that meant in the time of Jesus? Martha was distracted. How many other ways can you describe what was happening with Martha in this verse? Use some different translations to get some ideas. How are you distracted during a worship hour, Bible study, or prayer meeting? How are you distracted day to day by life?

Wednesday Luke 10:40 *“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!”*

Do you understand what was behind her question? Didn't Jesus care about her problem? What else might Martha have been trying to say with this particular question? What do you think of Martha's motives and attitude?

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

Why would Jesus say Martha was worried and upset? Use some of your other translations to explore the full meaning of these words in this context.

Friday Luke 10:42 *“but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”*

What is the one thing that was needed? Jesus says Mary chose the better, literally the best, regarding her priorities and tasks for that day. Thinking of your own life, peel away all of its levels and see what you discover to be the one thing needed. How often are you guilty of being very busy doing good things while missing out on or even running from the best. We should never sacrifice the best God intends for us for only the good. In church life it is easy to be very busy doing 1001 good things, but when we stand before the Lord on that last day He will be interested in how we handled the best. The best is found wrapped up in little verses like Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 1:8. If we forget or ignore these best things, we have ignored the very call and purpose of God. It is important to always place the good after the best.