



Defending Martha *Balancing Devotion and Duty* Luke 10:38-42

Big Idea: Jesus does not rebuke Martha for serving—He corrects her anxiety and distraction. Healthy believers learn to balance devoted worship with faithful service.

I. Martha's Service Was Good — Not Sinful [Luke 10:38]

Application: The church cannot function on worship alone. Somebody must serve.

II. Mary's Worship Was Necessary [Luke 10:39]

Application: Many believers know how to work for Christ but do not know how to sit with Christ.

III. Martha's Problem Was Distraction, Not Devotion [Luke 10:40]

Martha's Three Struggles:

- [1] Distracted
- [2] Anxious [Philippians 4:6, Psalm 46:10]
- [3] Resentful

Application: Even good ministry becomes unhealthy when:

- [1] We lose joy
- [2] Compare ourselves to those around us
- [3] Neglect Communion with God

IV. Jesus Defends Worship Without Rejecting Service [Luke 10:41-42]

The Mature Believer Becomes:

A worshiper like Mary and a servant like Martha

V. Defending Martha Today

Application: Service is not lesser spirituality. It becomes holy when rooted in worship.

[Luke 10:38] Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha [John 11:1, 19-20, 12:23] welcomed him into her house. [19:6]

[Romans 12:13b] . . . seek to show hospitality.

[Hebrews 13:2] Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

[1 Peter 4:9-10] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

[Luke 10:39] And she had a sister called Mary, [10:38, John 11:1, 19-11:20, 12:2-3] who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. [8:35, Acts 22:3]

[Psalm 27:4] One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

[John 15:5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

[Mark 3:14] Jesus appointed twelve [disciples] "... so that they might be with Him and [be sent by him] out to preach."

[Luke 10:40] 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."

[Philippians 4:6] . . . do not be anxious about anything . . .

[Psalm 46:10] "Be still, and know that [He is] God."

[Luke 10:41-42] But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, [12:22] ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." [Psalm 16:5]

[Acts 6:2-4] And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Study Question [Challenge and Prayer]

Question: Have I become so busy serving that I've neglected sitting with Jesus? Or have I become spiritually comfortable without serving others? Where is God calling me to restore balance?

Challenge: This week, intentionally spend time with Jesus before serving others, and ask God to restore balance between your devotion and your duty.

Prayer: Ask God to teach you to worship Him deeply and serve Him faithfully, and to guard you from distracted striving and empty devotion.