

Series: Making Much of the Master

MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS

LUKE 10:38-42

Text:

Introduction:

In this encounter of Christ with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus is only recorded here in the book of Luke.

This is one of the well-known stories of the Bible.

This story provides the church and Christians with lessons of wisdom which ought never to be forgotten.

We see in Mary and Martha a contrast. In this contrast Mary made the right choice; Martha though her choice was not sinful it wasn't the best choice.

Quote:

“Discernment is not a matter of simply telling the difference between right and wrong; rather it is telling the difference between right and almost right.” —
Spurgeon

Note some thoughts in this story and the lessons that we can learn from this encounter of the Saviour.

1. THE COURTESIES SHOWN TO CHRIST

In the Gospel records, we don't see many courtesies shown to the Lord, but in this text we see an exception.

Note:

A. The People Giving the Courtesies

Luke 10:38

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

This home where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived was open to Christ.

He was always welcomed there.

Note two things about the people who showed such courtesies to the Lord.

Note

- The Record of the People

There were three people in this story who showed kindness and was courteous to the Lord.

In this passage we read about Mary and Martha but in John 11 we learn that these two sisters had a godly brother named Lazarus who lived with them.

John 11:1-3

¹ Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) ³ Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

These people were some of the most kind and courteous people in the Lord's life.

Their home was always open to the Lord.

They were always ready to receive Him as a guest.

Note not only the Record of the People but also

- The Residence of the People

Our text tells us that they lived in a certain city but in John 11 we learn that they in Bethany.

It was located on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho and was on the Mount of Olives.

Though a small village, it still had some great followers of Christ there.

Beside Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, there was Simon the leper who was healed by Christ and who is recorded as providing a supper for Christ.

Matthew 26:6

⁶ Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

Mark 14:3

³ And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

The truth is – it's not the size of the town that matters but our devotion to Christ.

We note not only The People Giving Courtesies To Christ but also:

B. The Price of the Courtesies

There is always a price for showing courtesies to anyone, especially when you have them into your home.

So it was in this godly home they paid a price for their kindness.

The cost was two-fold.

Note:

- The Cost of Possessions

It takes food and other supplies to entertain people in your home.

We're not told but if the disciples were with the Lord then they would be feeding a large group of people.

But they were willing to make the sacrifice to spend time with the Lord.

Remember: When affection is great; the willingness to pay the cost will be great.

And certainly affection for the Lord was great in this home.

Is this affection for the Lord demonstrated in your home?

Not only was there the cost of possessions but also:

- The Cost of Peril

Jerusalem was hostile towards Christ and wanted to kill Him.

Those who showed kindness to Christ were not viewed well.

Friends of Christ were viewed favorably by the foes of Christ.

But this family didn't hesitate to open its doors to the Lord and show Him kindness in spite of the peril.

Not many people are willing to show their love the Lord when it is perilous.

This home was not made up of fair-weather friends but of true friends at all times.

C. The Persistency of the Courtesies

We have seen that these kind gestures shown to Christ were not hindered by the cost of showing favor to Him.

They were persistent in showing them.

There are at least three occasions in which affection and favor for the Lord was shown by this family.

Here in our text.

Another case when Lazarus got sick and died.

Another when they were gathered at Simon the leper's house for a supper with Christ at which time Mary anointed Christ with an expensive ointment.

It is evident that these people were loyal friends of the Lord all the time of Christ's earthly ministry.

Note not only The Courtesies To Christ secondly:

2. THE CONTRAST SEEN IN THE SISTERS

Note some contrast seen in these sisters:

A. There Was a Difference in Their Focus (vs. 39-40)

Luke 10:39-40

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

- Martha was focused of serving – "Much Serving"
- Mary was focused on the Savior

B. There Was a Difference in Fellowship

- Mary was as close to the Savior as she could get
- Martha was allowing her task to draw her away from Jesus

Are we as close to the Saviour as we could be?

The real truth is that we are as close to the Lord as we want to be.

How many times after we have invited Jesus into our hearts do we allow other things to consume us and draw our attention away from Him?

C. There Was a Difference In Their Feelings

Luke 10:39-40

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

- Martha was “cumbered”

She was worried

She was anxious

She was distracted

She was at unrest

This was the result of not focusing and fellowshiping with the Savior.

Martha had in her home the One Who could speak peace to the storms, the Prince of Peace, but she was not at peace.

What she was doing was not a bad thing but it wasn't the best thing.

Too often we settle for things that are not the best things.

- Mary was content

The Bible doesn't say what she was feeling but we know that she felt peaceful and was at rest.

Note Isaiah 26:

Isaiah 26:3

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

The Lord said that one thing was needful.

I realize that our days are filled with activities; I realize that our schedules are busy.

But the Lord said one thing is necessary. Martha was busy, but what would it had mattered, in the big picture of eternity, if maybe supper was a few minutes late?

What would it have mattered, if the biscuits were burned just a little?

What would it have mattered, if she had everything just perfect, and yet missed out on spending time with the Lord?

You may keep an immaculate house, I hope you do, but do you find time for the Lord?

You may be moving up the corporate ladder of success, but it is worth not spending time with the Lord?

The Lord told Martha, “Mary has chosen the good part that won’t be taken away from her”.

Close:

What is it worth to us to spend time with the Saviour?

Is Christ welcome in our homes?