

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
7/19/2023

Luke 10:38–42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 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." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "**Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**"

Passage Summary

In Luke 10:27 Jesus answers a lawyer's question about how to inherit eternal life with a question of His own: "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" Insightfully, the lawyer answered: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus does not seek to adjust anything with this statement but only encourages the lawyer to do this and eternal life is his. However, the lawyer clearly felt that obeying this call to genuine love was challenging so he asks a follow up question: "And who is my neighbor?" As an answer Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. Following this parable, Luke moves into the account of Jesus being welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary. Presumably, Luke shares this episode at this time to direct the thoughts of his readers toward the first part of the answer in Luke 10:27. The parable of the Good Samaritan gives us a window into what loving our neighbor looks like. The events which occurred when Jesus enters the home of Martha and Mary gives us a window into what loving the Lord your God looks like. Devotion to Jesus is more necessary than loving your neighbor.

Discussion Questions

Luke 10:38-39

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

Disciples are called to be learners

On Sunday we learned that the phrase "who sat at the Lord's feet" is not just a description of what happened but instead is intended to tell us that Mary was acting like a disciple of Jesus and Jesus accepted her as a disciple. Accepted women as disciples would have been unheard of for Jewish rabbi's in that day.

Why does Jesus accept Mary and other women as disciples?

What are a few wrong values sometimes reflected in our lives or in a church which might exclude those who desire to be disciples?

Disciples are called to exercise discernment

Luke 10:40–42

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.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “**Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**”

Martha was distracted with serving. Mary took the opportunity of the presence of Jesus to prioritize Him above everything else.

What distracts you from Jesus?

What habits have you formed (or desire to form) to help you prioritize Jesus?

Was it wrong for Martha to be serving Jesus?

Consider how loving God relates to loving others. Which one is most important? What would it look like to do one and neglect the other?

Take a moment and do some honest evaluation. HOW do you love others? WHY do you love others? WHO has God brought into your life that He wants you to love because He loves them? Take a few moments to pray and ask our God for wisdom to see what He is doing and for grace to join in what He is doing.