



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH  
**WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**  
February 21, 2017

*Martha*

**FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS**

Martha was a consummate host. When Jesus visited her home, she was the one who wanted to make sure everything was just right. She busied herself preparing the meal and anticipating her guest’s needs. Jesus experiencing the intensity of her “hospitality” at one point in the evening calls her out for being a needless “worry wart.” Martha got so caught up in the business of being a good host that she had no time to enjoy the invitation to become a disciple. Preparing a meal for the Messiah was certainly a worthy endeavor, but not if it came at the expense of sitting at His feet and learning from Him.

Read Luke 10:38-42

**Small Group Opener:**

What do you believe are the most important qualities in a good dinner “host”? \_\_\_\_\_

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**MAIN BIBLE STUDY:**

Please read the verses and answer the following questions.

- 1 What do we learn about Martha’s heart from this passage?
  - What do you think her question - “Lord, don’t you care...?” - reveals about the real source of her frustration? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. As you look at Mary and Martha, which sister most reflects your natural way of doing life and how do you see yourself in this woman? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- We live extra busy lives - are you finding time and space to connect with God each day? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What do you do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How do you do that? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Martha was a server of others. What are some of the dangers in trying to serve others too much?

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• Do see any of these traits in Martha? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Jesus says to Martha "You are worried and upset about many things" (v.41). What are some of the "many things" that women today can get caught up worrying about? \_\_\_\_\_

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• In a normal week, what are some of the things you tend to worry and get upset about?

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5. What are some of the dangers of basing our sense of personal value on what we do and accomplish in a specific day? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Martha took her complaint directly to Jesus (v. 40). She was honest, holding nothing back. What do you think about her honesty, and how could you be more like Martha in your communication with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. On the plus side, Martha was a person who wanted to extend hospitality to Jesus in very concrete ways. Now read Romans 12:13. To Paul, what does it mean to be "given to hospitality"? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Re-Read Luke 10:42. Do you think Martha learned what Jesus was seeking to teach her? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Going Further - Additional Study

Service was the life message, teaching and an example of Jesus. In Mark 9:33-35, Jesus was with His disciples, His closest followers and they were arguing about who was going to be greatest among them.

- In verse 35, which did Jesus tell His disciples about who would be the greatest? \_\_\_\_\_
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Jesus used parables and stories to illustrate service. The story of the Good Samaritan is taught all around the world. You will find it in Luke 10. The bottom line is captured in verse 33, "A despised Samaritan came along, and he saw the (beaten) man...and he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him."

- In verse 36, what made the Samaritan a neighbor to the injured man? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What instruction did Jesus give us in verse 37? \_\_\_\_\_
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Jesus' primary reason for living on the Earth was service and sacrifice - all the way to the Cross. Mark 10:45 is His clearest statement concerning His mission on this planet:

*"For even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

By this statement, Jesus moved service from a distant ideal to a personal responsibility. The King of all kings shatters the stereotype of what royalty is all about. He says, "I'm going to change things up - turn things upside down." Truly, Jesus' life was one of the most radical expressions of service in history.

Jesus is THE model of service. Consider the night before He was arrested and crucified, He was serving His disciples by washing their feet before the Passover meal (John 13:1-18).

- What did He tell His disciples about service in verses 15-17? \_\_\_\_\_
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**So what does it take to serve like Jesus (and avoid the mistakes that Martha made)?**

**First, we have to choose obedience over convenience.** Serving like Jesus is more than just an action, it is a character quality. A lot of people who are Christians want the benefits of being a Christ follower - all the pluses and perks - without the costly work. Obedience, doing what God wants us to do, is rarely convenient and it is usually costly. Obedience is our "immediate" following of God's call, a quick response to His leading (Matthew 4:19-22). Many times service can't wait, or shouldn't wait.

**Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.** Some people will say that they don't have the "heart" for service, but we *can* develop a servant's heart with the help of the Holy Spirit. He is seeking to fan the flames of service in our life.

**Be on the look out for opportunities to serve.** Pastors are often asked, "Where can I serve?" and the consistent answer from them is "Everywhere!" As we seek to be more and more like Christ, service will become a part of our lifestyle. It is best to start small. Seek out ways to serve individuals, and look for small needs that you might be able to meet. You will grow into greater gifts of service over time.

Jesus gives us great encouragement about serving in small ways in Matthew 10:42:

*"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because they are a disciple, truly, I say to you, they will by no means lose His reward."*

**Be aware that is not about personal recognition or reward.** According to the Bible, you don't get credit if you serve to be praised by people. It is very easy to let pride creep in when you serve others - keep your focus on bringing God the glory.

**Finally, develop the "eyes of your heart".** Here is an encouraging service-related idea I recently read about creating an, "I Could Have List." At the end of the day, reflect and consider what you may have missed in terms of opportunities to serve. Such evaluation and list-making helps us to better see the world around us. The next time an opportunity to serve comes around, we will not only see it, we will obediently respond.

- What are some areas where you could be of service today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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