

**I) INTRODUCTION**

**A)** Now, it is no secret this morning that we live in a busy culture.

**B)** Now, there is nothing wrong with busyness.

**i)** Our Lord was a busy man.

**ii)** Paul was a busy man.

**iii)** Godly people are busy people.

**C)** However, in our text this morning, we will see a certain *type* or *extent* of busyness that is to be guarded against in the Christian life.

**D)** Our text begins in v.38. “Now it came to pass, as they went, that He (Jesus) entered into a certain village...”

**i)** Luke does not give us the name.

**ii)** John does: Bethany (A suburb of Jerusalem)

**E)** V.38 continues, “and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.”

**F)** Now, what a wonderful thing this is – to receive Jesus into one’s home.

**i)** You may be here today, and you have never invited Jesus into your home.

**ii)** All you have to do is open the door, and He will come in.

**(a)** He loves to be where He is wanted.

**G)** Now, this would have required a lot of work for any guest but consider the circumstances how much more so!

**i)** This is Jesus!

**ii)** How anxious Martha must have been.

**H)** V. 39 tells us something else about Martha. “And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard His Word.”

**I)** Again, how wonderful!

**i)** Mary found her a place at the feet of Jesus.

**(a)** She didn’t let anything stop her (societal norms).

**(b)** Jesus invited her (how gracious).

**(1)** He is still inviting us to sit at His feet.

**J)** Both of these sisters were doing good things.

**K)** However, there is a stark contrast between them that develops in the text.

**i)** One is *serving* while the other is *sitting*.

**(a)** How many know that this is headed for trouble.

**(b)** The sisters that I know would not have been happy with this sort of dynamic.

**L)** V.40 records for us the moment that things went south.

**i)** V.40 begins with a three-letter word that spells disaster: “but!”

**ii)** Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to His Word, “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?"

**M)** In a moment of intense frustration, Martha approached Jesus and demanded, "bid her therefore that she help me!"

**i)** However, Jesus had something different in mind.

**N)** Now, our Lord's response is revealing.

**i)** There is a principle here that He is going to communicate to Martha.

**O)** Prayerfully, we will consider vs.41-42 and make several observations.

**P)** As we consider the response of Jesus, we will hear His...

**i)** Observation

**ii)** Evaluation

**iii)** Commendation

## **II) OUR LORD'S OBSERVATION**

**A)** Jesus responds to Martha's hasty request by saying, "Martha, Martha..."

**i)** Anytime Jesus repeats Himself, it's because He is trying to get our attention.

**B)** "thou art careful and troubled about many things."

**i)** That's our Lord's observation.

**ii)** Martha was a very busy woman.

**(a)** What was she busy with? She was busy serving Jesus!

**(1)** She was busy making sure He had something to eat and a place to rest.

**C)** However, our Lord's words carry the tone of rebuke.

**D)** You say, "Wait a minute, Pastor. I thought you said that Martha was busy doing good things."

**i)** Indeed, she was.

**ii)** The problem is not that she was busy; the problem is that she was TOO busy.

**E)** There are many Christians today who are very busy serving Jesus.

**i)** They are very involved in the ministry of the local church.

**(a)** They sing in the choir, they teach Sunday-School, they play on the softball team, they serve on the kitchen staff, they serve as deacons, they scrub the toilets.

**ii)** They are very involved in Christian work outside the church.

**(a)** They go on mission trips, they give to the poor, they feed the hungry.

**F)** Yet, it's very possible that our Lord's observation of them is that they are too busy.

**G)** Why is that? How is that possible? Consider not only OUR LORD'S OBSERVATION. See secondly...

## **III) OUR LORD'S EVALUATION**

**A)** How could a person be TOO busy serving Jesus?

- B) The answer comes from understanding the way Jesus evaluates our service.
- C) Jesus says in v.41-42a, “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL...”
- D) In the midst of her busy service Martha had become careful and troubled.
- i) The word translated “careful” carries the idea of being divided or distracted.
- ii) In other words, Martha had become tangled up in her busyness and was distracted from real business at hand.
- E) “One thing is needful,” Jesus said.
- i) In other words, Martha had been busy preparing an elaborate dinner with several courses for Jesus.
- ii) However, a simple, single-course meal would do fine.
- F) Jesus is telling us here that Martha was unnecessarily busy with trivial things, and she was missing the most important thing.
- G) What was that most important thing? Why fellowship with Jesus and hearing His Word of course!
- H) **The principle here is this: all of our busyness for Jesus is good, acceptable, even commendable, so long as it does not take the place of intimacy with Jesus!**
- I) The true evaluation of our service comes down to this: **Does our service flow naturally out of our intimacy and fellowship with Jesus, or is it being used as a substitute for it?**
- J) Service that pleases Christ always flows from intimacy with Christ.
- K) As believers, we must learn to distinguish between love for Christian service and love for Christ.
- i) The two are not necessarily the same.
- L) An intimate relationship with Jesus must always have the priority!
- M) Martha is busy serving a bunch of dishes, but all the while she is missing the main course – the teaching of Jesus!
- N) What about Mary? – That leads us to see not only OUR LORD’S OBSERVATION and OUR LORD’S EVALUATION. In v.42, we hear...

#### IV) OUR LORD’S COMMENDATION

- A) When our Lord looked at Martha, He saw a woman so distracted by earthly things that she missed the heavenly communion being offered to her by the Master.
- B) However, when Jesus looked at Mary, He saw a woman who delighted to sit at His feet in fellowship with Him.
- C) This prompted our Lord to say, “and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
- D) Again, Jesus places priority on fellowship with Him.

i) He refers to Mary's choice to sit as His feet as "that good part."

(a) That is "that good [portion]."

ii) Fellowship with Jesus is that part of life that makes life worth living.

E) Jesus places priority on fellowship with Him because it is that part of the Christian life that is eternal.

i) Think about it.

ii) One day, our earthly service for Jesus will end.

iii) One day, we will rest from our labors forevermore.

iv) However, enjoying the presence of Jesus will be our occupation for all eternity.

(a) Jesus put it this way, "Mary hath chosen that good part,  
WHICH SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HER."

F) **Fellowship with Jesus ought to be our main priority on this earth, for one day it will be our sole pursuit in Heaven.**

i) One day we will leave behind the cares and troubles of the *pilgrim land* and enter into the eternal rest of the *promised land*.

ii) In the words of the hymn writer, "What a day that will be/ When my Jesus I shall see...."

#### V) Conclusion:

A) What about you dear friend?

i) Will Heaven be your home one day? There is only one way!

(a) Rom. 3:23 - Rom. 5:8 - Rom. 10:13; 9-10

B) What about you Christian?

i) How would Jesus evaluate your service? Would He *commend* or *correct*? Perhaps there is need for evaluation this morning.