

What Do You Really Want?

Luke 10:25-42

Discussion Questions

1. The lawyer already knew the right answer — love God, love your neighbor. Why do you think he asked Jesus a question he already knew how to answer? Do you ever approach Jesus with the same intention?
2. Jesus makes a despised Samaritan the hero of the story. Why do you think he chose the one person the lawyer would never have expected — or wanted — to be praised? What can we learn from this?
3. The lawyer can't even bring himself to say the word “Samaritan” — he just says, “the one who had mercy.” What does that reveal about how deep his bias ran? In full transparency, are there any biases you have toward certain people groups?
4. Jesus reframes the question from “who deserves my compassion?” to “am I the kind of person who gives it?” How does that shift change the way you think about who you're responsible to love?
5. Is there a circle in your own life — a person or group — that you've quietly drawn small enough to exclude? What would it look like to widen it?
6. In first-century Judaism, sitting at a rabbi's feet was the posture of a disciple — a role women weren't normally given. What was radical about Mary's choice to sit there instead of helping Martha? Be honest, are you more like Martha or Mary? What could you do to create a better balance (serving Jesus/listening to Jesus) in your life?
7. Jesus doesn't say Martha's problem is that she's working — he says she's “worried and upset.” What's the difference between being busy and being anxiously “distracted” (perispao) the way Martha was? What things do you worry about most? What would help you to trust Jesus more in this area of your life?
8. What was “the one thing” Mary chose, and why does Jesus say it “will not be taken away from her”?
9. The lawyer tried to earn eternal life through religious performance; Martha tried to earn Jesus's approval through service. Where do you find yourself trying to earn from God what he actually wants to give freely?

Applications this week

1 Examine Your Circles

Identify one person or group you've mentally placed outside your "neighbor" circle. Take one concrete step this week to extend love toward them.

2 Name Your Martha Moments

Reflect honestly on where you're "worried and upset about many things." Is your service to God and others coming from anxiety and performance, or from a settled identity in Christ?

3 Choose the One Thing

Set aside unhurried time this week — even fifteen minutes — to simply sit at Jesus's feet in prayer or Scripture, with no agenda of accomplishing something for him.

4 Let Being Lead to Doing

Pick one specific act of "go and do" love this week that flows out of time spent with Jesus, not out of a need to prove yourself worthy.

Closing Thought

You don't earn Jesus's love — you receive it. You sit at his feet, you let him love you, and out of that overflow, you go and love others. Love God. Love others. Serve both.

AI was used to assist with the creation of this Study Guide.