

MARTHA, MARTHA • LUKE 10:38-42

Read Luke 10:38-42

1. Why is Martha so upset and frustrated?
2. Read John 11:17-44. Combined with the passage in Luke, describe the basic temperaments or personalities of the two women. (Notice in Luke who owns the home.)

Mary

Martha

3. Who do you identify more with, Mary or Martha?
4. What are the strengths of being a “Martha” in life and ministry? What are the weaknesses?

Having lost her focus on the Lord, and having been consumed with worry, Martha lashes out and blames her sister when, according to Jesus, it was her own poor choice.

5. What are the common results you experience when you lose your focus on God? Who, or what, do you blame when your life becomes chaotic?
6. When have you found yourself recently in a Martha-like frenzy? What was your source of worry?

7. In verse 41, how does Jesus refocus Martha's perspective?

8. In verse 41, the passage more literally reads "Mary has chosen the better portion." Look up the following verses and record what background they give concerning Jesus' use of the word "portion."

Lamentations 3:24

Numbers 18:28,29

Psalm 73:26

9. What insight does this provide as to how we should see our time with the Lord?

10. One of the uses of "portion" is as daily food, which provides energy, focus and motivation. What other things can become our food source?

11. Once our minds get consumed with what needs to be done, it's difficult to listen to God and to be reflective. What time of day have you found to be best for you to be able to really sit, listen, and hear from the Lord?

12. What things do you do in your times of prayer and Bible study to focus your mind and thoughts on the Lord?

13. Sometimes studying a book of the Bible can be helpful. What are you currently reading in the Scripture?

14. Briefly read through Luke 11:1-13. It is probably not accidental that Luke puts this story next. What things do you see in Jesus' teaching on prayer, which would really help Martha regain a proper focus?

Memory verse

Luke 10:41 "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed."