

Do you think God is interested in your life?
Is life, people, family, etc - being fair to you?

***Luke 10:38-42** As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "**Lord, don't you care** that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

JESUS, DON'T YOU CARE?

- Serving God is a wonderful privilege.
- We start with devotion, fire, passion and vision.
- What about after 10, 20, 30 years?
- Do you feel unfairly treated, that God does not care, etc?

The setting:

Mary is sitting at Jesus feet listening and learning
Martha is serving Jesus and is distracted by the hard work.

From delight to duty – why?

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home:

She loved Jesus and enjoyed serving him – hospitality. She became agitated, cross and resentful.

What went wrong?

(niv) But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

(kjv) But Martha was cumbered about much serving,

Martha became busy serving:

Martha became distracted (KJV: 'cumbered about much serving'). Cumbered = hindered, obstructed, interfered, etc 'Over occupied' - (W.E.Vines expository dictionary)

What began as a holy thing became a source of irritation.

Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus.

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Jesus, don't you care?

She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

A subtle change took place:

- *‘Look Jesus – I am the only one serving...’*
- *‘I am not coping with this...’*
- *‘Jesus, don’t you realise that I am doing this for you?’*
- *‘Jesus – my sister is being totally irresponsible...’*
- *‘Jesus, Mary is just sitting around while I do the work...’*
- *‘Jesus, Mary doesn’t care about the workload...’*
- *‘Jesus, Mary is selfish...’*
- *‘Jesus, this is not fair...’*
- *‘Jesus, why are YOU letting HER get away with this injustice?’*

Martha developed a ‘chip on her shoulders’...

‘Jesus - ‘Tell her to help me.’ Martha did not ask Mary to help her.

Mary did not defend herself:

Mary continued to sit at Jesus’ feet. It was Martha that had invited Jesus into her home.

What did Jesus do?

Jesus gently rebuked Martha:

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

- Jesus was personal and direct.

- Jesus pointed out that Martha was ‘worried and upset’.
- Jesus rebuked her because of her focus on ‘many things’.

Jesus honoured Mary:

Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

Mary had made a choice.

How insulting this must have been to Martha.

Jesus revealed the shift that had taken place in Martha’s heart...

- From delight to duty.
- From love to anger and resentment.
- From hospitality to hostility.
- From ‘Jesus centredness’ to ‘self-centredness’.
- From ‘worship centredness’ to ‘work centredness’.
- From ‘faith that Jesus cared’ to doubt - ‘Don’t you care’?

Martha lost sight of WHO she was serving:

- She started with wonderful intentions.
- She became distracted with things.
- She lost her joy and became negative and judgemental.
- In her attitude she started serving man instead of Jesus.
- She doubted Jesus’ intention towards her.

- She lost sight of her relationship with Jesus.

Martha moved from 'Jesus come in to my home' – to, 'Jesus don't you care'?

One thing is needed.

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

What is better?

Matthew 11:28. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Come to me.

- A simple and profound invitation.
- All you who are weary and burdened.
- If you are weary, tired, burdened.
- If sin, bondage, heaviness or conflict has you bound up.

I will give you rest.

- Jesus is the 'burden bearer'.
- Jesus takes away sin, burdens and bondage.

Take my yoke.

- My yoke is easy – 'chrestos' (Nothing to gall or irritate the neck).

- A yoke lined with love, gentleness and pleasantness.

Learn from me.

- We must sit in His class daily – ‘word and spirit’.

I am gentle and humble.

- Jesus is not like the task-masters, or cruel lords, etc.

You will find rest for your souls.

- Rest in mind, emotions, etc.
- My yoke is easy and my burden is light.
- Totally different from serving mankind.

We must sit at Jesus feet.

Mary had learned this powerful lesson:

Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

- Listening to His voice – His Word (Scripture).
- Hearing His heart.
- Observing His humility and grace.
- Understanding his everlasting love.
- Trusting in His sovereignty.

The lesson for us today.

- Our first ministry is to Jesus.
- We must understand WHO we are serving.
- As we serve His people, it must be with an understanding that we are ‘serving Jesus’.

- In our serving Jesus, we must not be governed by how others act, what they do, or how that act towards us.

Our serving must be grounded in our relationship with Jesus

‘Jesus does care’.