**Luke 10:38-42 38Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. 40But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” 41And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”**

Is Jesus informing your life or just living in your house? In order for us to be true disciples of Jesus, He must be informing our life – He must inform the way we speak, the way we live, the places we go, and the friends we have. If there’s been no change, He may just be living in the house.

This morning, we find ourselves with Jesus entering a certain village and being welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary. In order to fully appreciate these verses, we must understand a few things about the culture. First, women were not equal to men, were viewed as property, were not educated, and were not to associate with men without a male family member present. Second, great value was placed on being a good hostess. People took great pride in being seen as a gracious hostess. Third, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus must be people of some means, but the verse refers to the house as Martha’s house. This would have been unusual in that day and time. The first verse sets us up for a very unusual encounter. Verse 38 - *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.*There’s no mention of any men in the house with Jesus and the two women. Jesus is communicating directly with the women. This alone would have had people whispering.

In verse 39, we meet Mary - *And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.*Mary’s posture suggests that she’s a disciple, learning at the feet of Jesus. This too would have people murmuring and whispering – who does she think she is sitting at the feet of the Master.

While Mary sits, Martha is scurrying around – verse 40 says *But Martha was distracted with much serving.* Notice the difference between the two: Mary is sitting peacefully, absorbing Jesus word, taking full advantage of His presence. Martha is distracted, hurried, working.

There’s a lesson here about priorities. The work of feeding Jesus, and others if they were with Him is important, but Jesus makes it clear time and again that feeding the spirit is more important than feeding the body. A right relationship with Christ takes precedence over a clean house or a clear desk. God’s work flows from right spirit. The most critical thing we can do each and every day is get properly oriented with Christ. We must not allow anything, even the best of intentions, to distract us from Him. This is not a criticism of Martha. We all have a Mary and a Martha competing inside of us.

An important point here is that the houses of that day were not large. Don’t get in your mind that Martha was way off in the backroom somewhere. She’d have been stepping over Mary. The conversation would’ve been in the background. Mary and Martha would’ve been hearing the same conversation. The Bible is clear - one was focused and one was distracted.

The Bible tells us to be focused in our prayer life. Matthew 6:6 says *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.* Focus is key to a strong spirit. We are renewed when we meet with Jesus and absorb His word.

Let’s return to verse 40 - *and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”* Martha rebukes Jesus. The hostess rebukes the hosted. In her rebuke, we hear frustration, maybe some jealousy, perhaps some shame. Martha is so busy doing what the world demands that she rebukes the very One that her spirit craves. Her distraction, her worry, her concern for the world leads her to rebuke Jesus.

I know no one here has ever done that. No one has ever questioned God in a moment of frustration, spoken ill temperedly when help doesn’t arrive like we think it should. No one has ever questioned the situation we find ourselves in, how we’re working so hard and nothing seems to be coming together. So there’s no point in me even talking about that… because it just never happens… does it?

Verses 41 says -*And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.*Notice that Jesus repeats Martha’s name. I can imagine the compassion in His voice. He’s not angry. He sees the distress in her face, He sees the frantic working, He sees her troubled spirit. He knows. Listen to His words - you are worried and troubled about many things. He has a gift for Martha, but she won’t slow down long enough to receive it. He has Peace He wants to leave with her, but she’s distracted by the world.

Many of us feel frazzled right now. We pray, but it’s a habit. We read our Bible, but only because we’re supposed to. Jesus sees worried and troubled children, wringing hands about the world. What we’re worried about, what we’re troubled about… does it matter so much that we should let it drown out the words of Jesus? Many of us are doing just that.

Now, listen to Jesus in verse 42 - *But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”*What is the “good part”? To sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His word. To have Jesus inform her life. Mary chose correctly. One thing is needed – right relationship with Jesus

One thing is still needed today. We too must choose. We too must prioritize. We too must focus. No one can do that for us. When serving Jesus becomes about the things we do instead of the Savior we serve, it’s time to reevaluate. A sure sign that something is wrong is when the joy of hosting Jesus disappears from our life in favor of worry and strife.

Today, we must be like Mary. Work is important, witnessing is important, but they must be informed by the spirit. One thing is needed, the good part… it will not be taken away, but it can be misplaced. Don’t let the world steal the good part from you. Mary knew what the world would say and she sat down at the feet of Jesus anyway. Her priority was relationship. She chose to have Jesus inform her life. What is our priority today?