

## **When Service Becomes Devoid of Devotion**

### **The One Necessary Thing**

October 10, 2004

**Luke 10:38-42**

1. **Martha - worried about the carnal things. She was taking commendable care of her guest, as a good hostess is expected to do:**
  - Making things comfortable for Jesus, preparing food etc.
  - She was totally absorbed in doing things for Jesus, but was at the same time neglecting him
  - Had her service become “self-serving”? Was it just making her feel good about what she was doing for Jesus.
  - She felt that she was carrying the whole load of hosting alone.
  - She requested of Jesus that he tell her sister Mary to come and help her
  - Poor Martha was fretful, troubled, disturbed, distracted, and divided by her cares
2. **Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet and heard his words:**
  - She honored and pleased him where she was, and doing what she was doing
  - She received his word into her heart
  - She had wisdom to choose the good part
  - What she got could never be taken from her
3. **The one needful thing - to hear his word:**
  - Godliness unites the heart that the world has divided
  - The many things she worried about were needless, while the one thing she neglected was needful
  - Life is made up of parts - godliness is the good part and the only part that will go with us into another world
4. **Evidently Jesus was not just doing “chit-chat” or making small-talk but speaking words of life to Mary. What he was serving was of much greater value than what Martha was trying to prepare to serve.**
5. ***Psalms 27:4* David would have loved to have had the opportunity that Mary and Martha had to sit at Jesus’ feet:**
  - *“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.”*
6. ***Philippians 3:13-14:***
  - “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
  - “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus
  - “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”