“Worried And Troubled About Many Things”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 3rd, 2019

Text: Lk. 10:38-42

### Intro

1. The Scriptures record that Jesus loved Martha, her sister Mary, and her brother Lazarus (John 11:5, 33-36).
2. They lived in Bethany:
   1. Bethany was a village on the southeastern slopes of Mount Olivet, situated about two miles east of Jerusalem near the Jericho road.
3. Luke 10:38-42:
   1. Jesus visited their home, enjoying rest and offering guidance.
4. The differing actions of Mary and Martha teach several valuable lessons!

#### The Importance of Hospitality

* 1. Lk. 10:38-39: “Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home…had a sister called Mary.”
  2. Lk. 10:40: Martha not only invited Him in, but was busy in preparing and serving a meal to Jesus and possibly also His disciples (10:38: “…as ***they*** were traveling along”).
  3. The New Testament repeatedly affirms the importance of hospitality.
     1. “Hospitality” = *philoxenia [fil-on-ex-ee'-ah] (G5381):* Greek noun, literally “the love of strangers.”
     2. Refers to a welcoming attitude toward people, both known and unknown.
     3. Rom. 12:10-13: Hospitality to saints (12:10: “brotherly love,” 13: “saints”)
     4. Heb. 13:1-2: We ought to love the brethren, but also show hospitality to strangers. For so doing people have entertained angels unaware!
  4. Hospitality should be characteristic of:
     1. Elders (I Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7-8: “Be hospitable”)
     2. Widows indeed (I Tim. 5:9-10: Hospitality to brethren and to strangers!)
     3. Disciples in general (I Pet. 4:7-11: “Be hospitable to one another without complaint” – Heb. 13:1-2)
  5. Martha and Mary showed hospitality to Jesus! (a defining characteristic of a disciple!)

#### The Importance of Hearing

* 1. Lk. 10:39: Mary, the sister of Martha, “was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.”
  2. In both the Old and New Testaments, saints and sinners alike are admonished to “Hear the word of the Lord...”
     1. Isaiah the prophet called on His people to hear (Is. 1:10; 28:14; 39:5; 66:5).
     2. Jesus placed emphasis on the necessity of hearing & obedience (Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28; John 8:42-47).
     3. James said one must hear and do! (Js. 1:21-25)
  3. God offers salvation to lost mankind through His revealed word (Luke 16:27-31).
  4. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:5-17).
  5. Are we allowing the gospel, the word of truth, to bear fruit in our lives *(Col. 1:3-12)?*
  6. Mary, seated at the feet of Jesus (Lk. 10:39), had “chosen the good part” (Lk. 10:42)!

#### The Importance of Focus

* 1. Lk. 10:40: Distracted with all her preparations, Martha yielded to frustration, saying, “Lord *(G2962 Kurios, H1961 YHWH)*, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” *(Use of Kurios shows she was a disciple)*
  2. Lk. 10:41-42 (NKJ): Jesus (NAS: “the Lord” = *G2962 Kurios: “Supreme Authority”)* replied, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”
  3. Being “troubled” (NAS: “bothered”) by many things can cause us to lose focus!
     1. There are so many things in the world around us, in our lives, that it is easy to get “busy” and miss the focus: Jesus!
     2. If we are too busy to hear God’s word (publicly or privately) then we are too busy! *(It is possible to be busy doing things that take us away from God!)*
     3. Mt. 6:24-34: Anxiety and mental distress can distract us from seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (6:33)!
     4. Lk. 8:7, 14: In the Parable of the Sower, the seed which fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's Word, but subsequently are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and thus are unfruitful.
     5. The cure to anxiety is to “seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness” (Mt. 6:33) and lay our anxieties on God through prayer (I Pet. 5:6-7)!
  4. Following the example of Jesus, let us maintain spiritual focus (Jn. 4:31-34), laboring not for food which perishes, but rather for that which endures to eternal life (Jn. 6:26-27).
  5. Martha was “worried and troubled about many things” and lost her focus on what was important – to learn from Jesus while He was still with them!
     1. There will always be chores, projects, and things that need to be done, but sometimes we need to stop and hear the word of the Lord, choosing “the good part!”
  6. Being busy with life is important, but not at the expense of losing focus on spiritual matters!

## Conclusion

1. Prov. 1:20-23: Wisdom cries aloud in the streets, lifting up her voice in the square, calling the wayward to repentance and obedience.
   1. Isaiah echoes the same call (Is. 55:1-3)
   2. Jesus Christ echoes the same call (Mt. 11:28-30).
   3. John tells us the Holy Spirit and the church echo that call:
      1. *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost (Rev. 22:17).*
2. May we learn the lessons of Martha and Mary, recognizing the importance of showing hospitality, hearing the word of God, and maintaining proper spiritual focus!
3. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
4. If a Christian in error, remember your zeal, and the goal ahead. Repent and be renewed!
5. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!