



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

The Big Picture — Spirituality

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Text: Luke 10:38-42

Key Text: *Luke 10:41-42, “And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. [42] But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”*

Introduction:

- 1) Our culture: Food: Hot, fresh, and now.
- 2) Our concern: Can we be spiritual in this culture?
- 3) Our conflict: We want to please God and try not to hurt man.
- 4) Our criterion: The word of God is our standard.

I. The people: Jesus, Martha, and Mary.

A. Jesus, traveling toward Jerusalem and stops in Bethany (John 11:1).

B. Martha:

1. She is concerned about her guests.
2. Most of us could probably best relate to Martha.

C. Mary:

1. Not:
 - a. Mary, the mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:16).

- b. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:1).
 - c. Mary, the mother of James and John, the wife of Clopas (Mark 15:40; John 19:25).
 - d. Mary, the mother of John Mark (Acts 12:12; Romans 16:6).
2. This woman wanted to learn at Jesus' feet.
- II. The predicament: Martha verses Jesus and Mary.
- A. There is time to and place to be a good hostess:
 1. Hebrews 13:2.
 2. Matthew 25:31-46.
 3. Paul speaks of his host Gaius in a favorable way (Romans 16:23).
 - B. How do we know the right time and the wrong time?
 - C. God's commands come with a priority:
 1. The good Samaritan of Luke 10:25-37.
 2. Jesus' lesson in Luke 14:1-6.
 3. Jesus' teaching in Luke 13:10-17.
- III. The purpose: What Jesus was teaching then and there and is teaching here and now.
- A. Mary's attitude was dependence on Jesus.
 - B. Never forget the purpose of our gatherings.
 - C. Some practical applications:
 1. Do not leave the worship of God to prepare food.
 2. Do not count money while we should be worshipping God.

Conclusion:

- 1) "But..." discussed, at least a few of them!
 - a) "But, this is how we have always done it!"
 - b) "But, I just never thought of it this way!"
 - c) "But, we always thought we were being kind and helpful."
 - d) "I see what the word says, but I just don't agree."
- 2) If my heart and God's word need to be aligned, what has to change? (Jeremiah 10:23).