

after God and His Word but was unavoidably immersed in family life each day. Then an idea came to her. In each room she placed paper and a pencil on a high surface, away from tiny hands. As she served the Lord in household responsibilities, she also kept herself open to God. Whenever a Scripture came to mind, or something to confess, to correct, or to pray about, she jotted it on the nearest pad of paper. In the evening after the children were asleep, she gathered her pieces of paper and pondered them prayerfully over her open Bible.

This woman found a way to be Martha and Mary at the same time. May we too discover ways to serve God and to commune with Him.

*Our service for the Lord each day
Can make us feel distressed,
But spending time each day with Christ
Can make our service blest. —D. De Haan*

To keep your life in balance, lean on the Lord.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

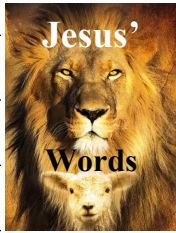
JULY 26, 2020

Serving Without Distraction

While Martha served Jesus unsparingly, her sister Mary sat at His feet, listening and learning. Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) believed that Martha's mistake wasn't her serving, but rather that she allowed it to distract her attention from Jesus. Spurgeon believed that we should be Martha *and* Mary in one. He wrote, "We should do much service, and have much communion at the same time. For this we need great grace. It is easier to serve than to commune."

I once met a young mother who found the grace to do both. She hungered





Choices



(John 11:5) Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Luke 10:38-42 describes the outcomes of two major heart choices:

1. The choice of _____, verses 38-42

(Proverbs 4:23) Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

(Matthew 12:34-35) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [35] A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

(Luke 6:43-45) "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. [44] For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. [45] A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

(John 11:1) Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

(John 11:7-8) Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." [8] The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"

(Romans 12:1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

(Romans 12:1) ...holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [ESV]

(Revelation 2:2-4) "I know your works, your labor, your patience, (4) Nevertheless I

have this against you, that you have left your first love.

(Deuteronomy 33:3) Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.

(John 11:32) Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

(John 12:2-3) There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, ... [3] Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

(Matthew 6:33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

(John 11:20) Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house.

(John 12:2) There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, ...

(Romans 14:5-6) One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. [6] He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.

2. The choice of _____, verses 38b-42

(John 12:2) There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, ...

(Romans 5:5) ...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

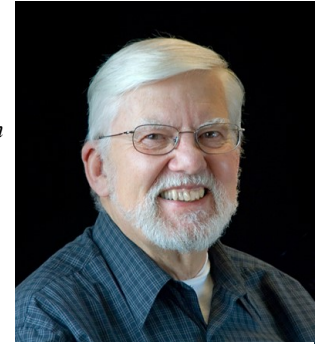


(John 15:4-12) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

[5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ... [7] If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. [8] By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. [9] "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. [10] If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. [11] "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. [12] This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.



Dave Brannon



David Egner