

Mary and Martha. This is a story of two sisters who loved Jesus. Martha was very busy around the house. I imagine that she might have been preparing food for Jesus and the disciples. You are looking at a meal for at least 15 people when you include Jesus, the 12 disciples and Mary and Martha. That does not include anybody else who might have been there.

Cooking for that many people takes a lot of time. Even in today's standards, it takes a long time. And if she was the only one doing that work, I truly understand why Mary asked Jesus to tell Mary to help. When we would visit Heidi's family at her grandparents, grandma would live in the kitchen and really didn't want help from anyone. She would cook for 8 to 12 people back then and once we finished eating and the dishes were done, grandma would be starting on supper and she still refused help.

So I understand what Martha was complaining about because I have seen grandma cook for her family. But unlike grandma, Martha wanted some help because having the 13 extra people in the house was causing a lot more work for her. But Mary was not interested in helping because she was more interested in learning about what Jesus had to say. She was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening intently to what he was teaching.

Now it is important to remember that both Mary and Martha had a strong faith in God and believed that Jesus was the Messiah. But instead of sitting and listening to Jesus, Martha wanted Mary to get up and help. Martha did not want to do all of the work by herself. We all have felt that way haven't we? There have been jobs that we were doing and finally got tired of doing the work by ourselves and wanted some help. And some of us might have asked for some help while others kept doing the work by themselves.

Martha probably expected Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help because that was expected of women at the time. They were to do the work in taking care of the guests. But Jesus shocked her when he said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

When it comes to learning about what God has to say to you, Jesus says that is more important than anything else. Mary was only concerned about listening to Jesus while Martha was distracted by her work.

How many times are we distracted where we neglect our relationship with God? I get that we are busy and have a lot on our plates. I get that there are so many opportunities that we want our kids to at least have a chance to participate in. I get that our time is being

demanded by many different people or organizations. I get that most of us probably feels more like Martha on any given day.

We to believe and trust in Jesus as the one who came into this world to save us just like Mary and Martha did. There are times where we actually slow down enough to sit and learn about what God is doing in our world. Unfortunately for many people, we are more often like Martha who was running around and trying to take care of other things that she thought needed to be done. As she was busy doing that, she was missing out on what Jesus had to say.

How often do we miss out because of something that we see as needing to be done? This particular passage can be very tough for us to hear because it convicts us of neglecting our relationship with God. It reminds us that every one of us is guilty of being Martha where we run around trying to take care of things that are not really important in the big picture of our salvation.

But just as he spoke to Martha, Jesus speaks to us and encourages us to be like Mary where she is taking time in the business of the world to learn more about her relationship with God. Spend time in prayer asking for God's guidance and strength as you continue to grow in HIM and live in this world. Read HIS Word to see how God has reached out to the world and touched the lives of all people. And worship God with all your heart, soul and mind by giving thanks for all the blessings that you have received and for the many ways in which God has used you to share the gospel through your words and deeds.