

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Martha and Mary
Mark 10:38-42
January 25 & 26, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Consider the video clip of Kyle Martin and the experience of Michael Huffington that Brandon discussed at the beginning of the sermon. Reflect on their messages of losing sight of Jesus in midst of trying to achieve other things. If you're able, as a group, watch the speech of Kyle Martin [here](#).

2. Was there been a moment in your life when you realized that something was missing (without Jesus)? Have you experienced accomplishing a goal or achieving a prize and finding it ultimately unfulfilling?

Martha and Mary: The Warning

1. Martha's actions are a warning of how not to act. How would you describe how she is acting? Why was she acting in this way (what were her motivations)?

2. Martha's first inclination is to jump into action and do the work of entertaining Jesus while Mary is continually listening and captured by Jesus. Martha is distracted with with her serving. In what ways do you act like Martha?

3. Martha is exasperated with Jesus and impugns his character by demanding that he do something about the situation. This is an expression of her distracted and busy life. Where does your heart go and who do you trust in times anxiety, stress and distraction?

4. Brandon explained that like Martha, our "doing" reveals that we ever thought we could do enough for Jesus in the first place. What does this mean and how is it true of you?

Martha and Mary: The Example

1. The example of Mary is a simple relationship with Jesus. What does it mean to sit at Jesus' feet each day? Would you say that you, like Mary, are enraptured by Jesus?

2. Jesus teaches in this story that he isn't concerned with our works, but with our heart. He does not want what we can do, he wants us. Why is that such good news and what makes it so profound? Why is so hard to live in this way?

3. Would your spouse and/or friends describe you as being more like Mary or more like Martha?

Mary and Martha: The Reminder

1. Jesus did not intend to pit Mary against Martha. He simply wanted to explain that a life of obedience (Martha) must come out of a heart of devotion (Mary). What's the danger of mixing up this order?
2. Brandon said that the goal of Christianity is not a perfect, put together life but a still and focused heart? How is this different from how others (including yourself) may view Christianity?
3. How would you explain and summarize this story's illustration of grace to someone hearing it for the first time?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?