

- A. The rating system using “good, better, and best” points us to some essential truths in today’s text.
- B. Earlier in chapter 9, Jesus and His disciples were traveling on their way to Jerusalem. They were denied a place to stay in a village of the Samaritans (vv52-56).
- In today’s text as, “**...they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home**” (v38).

God wants you to seek what is necessary for your salvation.	I. TWO EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE II. SEEK WHAT IS NECESSARY
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I. TWO EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE →vv39-40

- A. Martha sought opportunity to show her love by offering hospitality.
1. The Greek work for hospitality means “love for a stranger.”
  2. Deut 10:19 commanded the Jews to “**love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt**” (NKJV).
    - a. The Hebrew word for “**stranger**” here can also be translated “**alien**” [outsider] or “**sojourner**.”
    - b. This was a rich, important part of Jewish culture that Martha was seeking to fulfill as she was serving Jesus and His disciples.
- B. Mary was likely compelled to sit at the feet of Jesus because she delighted to hear Him speak.
1. One reason was because people were often “**amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority**” according to Lu 4:32.
  2. Her love was to hear teaching that pertained to God and His kingdom.
  3. Listening to Jesus filled a great longing in her soul. Maybe she felt compelled to listen to Him.
  4. We should pray to be like Mary who longed to hear the Word of God, especially when it is preached.
- C. Rather than listen much if at all, “**Martha was distracted with all her preparations**” (v40).
1. We live in a world that can be very distracting.
    - a. Many of the distractions we face are not sinful in and of themselves.
      - 1) Serving others like Martha was not sinful, yet it kept her so distracted she could not listen to the incarnate Son of God who taught in her very own home.
      - 2) Distractions can and do often choke out the working of God’s Holy Word and Holy Spirit in our lives so that we do not bear fruit.
    - c. A modern danger is our having a multitude of distractions piled up one upon another that choke out the Word of God in our lives.
  2. All distractions cannot be eliminated, yet ask God for wisdom and self-control to remove those that hinder your Christian faith and practice.
- D. Even though Martha was the one with the problem and not her sister, she asked Jesus to make Mary get up and help. In v40, “**she came up to Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.’”**

## II. SEEK WHAT IS NECESSARY → vv41-42

A. Not only was Martha distracted by her busy nature, Jesus said she was **“worried and bothered about so many things.”**

1. The causes for worry can be manifold.

- a. Personality types (i.e. perfectionists) can contribute to worry.
- b. Upbringing is a big contributing factor.
- c. Some doctors would say that anxious people need medicine. That can be helpful.
- d. Scripture tells us that worry is sin.

1) **Phil. 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

2) This is not a suggestion; it is a command.

a) For some, sin regarding money is rooted in one’s breaking the first commandment.

b) To worry and never pray to God in our trials is dependence upon self and others rather than upon God.

2. Jesus said the cure for worry is having a greater faith rather than a **“little faith.”** → **Mat 6:25f**

B. Jesus gave a commendation to Mary saying in **v42**, **“but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”**

1. One might argue that it was necessary for Jesus and His disciples to eat; however, Martha must have gone overboard somehow.

- a. Some folks don’t offer hospitality because they make it harder than it has to be.
- b. Don’t be worried and bothered in your serving. God wants us to serve others out of love in the name of Christ. This is to be our focus rather than impressing others with our home décor or culinary skills.

2. Jesus said that hearing His Word is **“necessary” (v42)**.

- a. Being fed spiritually in Christ is the most important part of any person’s existence.
- b. Don’t let fretting to make money and accumulate stuff keep you from the means of grace (the Word, sacraments, and prayer). In **Mark 8:36**, Jesus said, **“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”**

C. Jesus said, **“Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”**

1. The root word for the adjective **“good”** is **“agathos.”** The name Agatha means **“good.”**

- a. Considering the context that Martha was endeavoring to show hospitality, the NIV translation is helpful when it says, **“Mary has chosen what is better.”**
- b. Ask God to give you a desire for what is best for you and for His glory.

2. Jesus said our eternal life cannot be taken away.

- a. Your home, your goods, your loved ones, and even your own life can be taken away.
- b. If you are trusting in Christ with a true and lively faith, your eternal inheritance can never be taken away.

Review, conclusion, and further application: