

# GA Sunday

15th September, 2024

## Topic: My Walk and Work with God

**Text: Luke 10:38 - 42** - *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. [40] But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." [41] 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." (NKJV)*

## Introduction

The scripture above shows us a culture that must not be ignored and must never be abandoned if we are going to matter in the hands of God. If we are going to become what God actually wants us to be, knowing fully well that we have been translated from the kingdom of darkness to His own dear kingdom of light; there is then a call, a mandate, an instruction from the Lord for men and women who matter in this kingdom to understand that God is calling us into a true dimensional aspect that He has desired in our lives.

This culture, being divided into two, was well established in the passage we highlighted, and I have discovered that the Lord Himself approved one aspect above the other. Let me rephrase that, He approved both, but He gave more credit to one than the other, and I want us to pay critical attention to this study.

In that same scripture, I found three categories of people. Let's look at verse 38. The Bible says, "*Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village....*" In Luke's rendition, the name of the village was not mentioned, but that village has a name. It was actually recorded in John's account as Bethany, a place where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived.

Based on the comparison of both accounts in Luke and John, the three categories of people are represented well by these people:

## 1. The "Martha" Category

These are people who love to work for God but do not know the God of the work. They can do everything - spend money, use their energy and time to serve in the body of Christ. You'll see them in camps, Bible societies, associations, conferences, and conventions. They can even hold multiple positions in the church, very active in church activities but the knowledge of the God they are serving is absent.

We saw this in the life of Paul as well. He was particular about persecuting the church all in the name of being zealous for the God he never knew. But on the road to Damascus, Christ has to introduce Himself to him.

- ***"You must understand that there are categories of people that we have seen that are passionate and passionately pursuing kingdom works, yet they never know the God of the kingdom."***

The Pharisees and Sadducees also fall into this category. They never abide by the law they gave. Do you remember the sons of Sceva also? They tried casting out demons in the name of the God they never knew.

As good as working for God is important, you must first settle to know Him.

## 2. The "Mary" Category

**Verse 39:** *And she had a sister called Mary, **who also** sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.* (NKJV)

Mary and Martha welcomed Christ together but Mary took it a step further by introducing the dimension of "also". In other words, she went extra in her choice. We usually miss the part where Mary took part in the hospitality of Jesus and believe she jumped to sit by Jesus' feet immediately. No! She combines both serving with spending time with the Lord.

Thus, the second set of people you will see in the kingdom are men and women who serve and, at the same time, sit at Jesus' feet. Do you know the effect of Mary's choice was in John 11 when Lazarus died? As usual, Martha picked race upon the news of Jesus' arrival but then she did not understand when Christ told her, "I am the resurrection and the Life." Mary, on the other hand, bowed immediately in a manner that moved Jesus to tears.

- **"You must understand the dimension of walking with God before working for Him."**

### 3. The Lazarus Category

These are people who neither follow God nor serve Him. They are bench warmers. Their devotion is non-existent, and their quiet time is zero. They come to church late and sit at the back, targeting when the pastor will pray. Lazarus was not mentioned before the time of his death. This is to show you that this category of people tends to die cheaply without fulfilling their destiny and purpose.

Now, there are things you must understand if you want to walk and work for God

## 3 THINGS TO PUT IN PLACE TO WALK AND WORK FOR GOD

### 1. A Divine Commendation

God commends both honouring and serving Him as well as sitting and learning at His feet. You cannot pick one and abandon the other. In fact, the more you walk with God, the more you will want to work for Him.

Do you regard the Lord? Do you love Him? Are you serving with the whole of your heart or serving because of the material things you want from Him? God is searching for people who will combine both service and spending quality time with Him.

### 2. Divine Caution

#### Verse 40

**"But Martha was distracted with much serving,** and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." (NKJV)

In as much God is commending our service, He is also giving us a caution not to allow our work for Him to affect our walk with Him. Distraction is a distortion of divine order. It's shifting your gaze from God.

You can be busy serving God, but if it's affecting your walk with God, then you are distracted. The moment you begin to serve and you can no longer maintain your study life and your personal prayer time, there is a divine caution for you; God is calling you to be careful. When you're distracted, three things happen:

- You become worried
- You pick offence very easily
- You are troubled on all sides

Your source of strength, your source of grace is with God. Can you maintain your presence with God? Don't be distracted.

### 3. Divine Commandment

Jesus emphasizes choosing the "good part" - spending time with Him.

#### Verses 41 and 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.**" (NKJV)*

The divine commandment is about "one thing." Jesus called Martha's name twice as emphasis and out of pity and compassion. He acknowledged her service but pointed out the fact that she was worried about many things.

The "one thing" that is needed is to sit at Jesus' feet, to spend time with Him. This doesn't mean we shouldn't serve, but our service should flow from our relationship with Him. Mary chose the good part - to be with Jesus, to learn from Him.

We see this "one thing" concept in other parts of Scripture:

#### Psalm 27:4

*"**One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.**" (NKJV)*

**Jesus is the one thing.** Let your gaze be on Jesus and Jesus alone. Any other thing is secondary. Search after the one thing.

#### Luke 18:22

*So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "**You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" (NKJV)*

You have shifted your gaze from Jesus. You are beginning to search for things that God did not approve. One thing is needed. Can you make a decision that no matter what may happen, I will allow Christ to be taken from me

### Philippians 3:13-14

*"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (NKJV)*

If God has used you greatly yesterday, there is another level today. It can only be found in Jesus. Put aside the exploits of yesterday, put aside what you have done yesterday. There is something ahead of you.

There is more about Jesus you have not known. Have you known Him to the point where He can ask you to release your most prized possession or do a menial job for the kingdom?

Mary has chosen that one thing. Do you know Him? Do you love Him? He's not asking for many things, just one thing from you. I know you like to serve the Lord, but are you far from Him? Can you talk to God wherever you are and dedicate your life to loving Him well?

- *May the Lord help you never to be distracted. There is distraction everywhere, and that is what the devil does. The devil sows a seed of distraction in our lives, and when he does that, we may never be balanced.*