

BIBLE STORY: MARY SITS AT JESUS' FEET

Luke 10:38-42

Central Thoughts

- God's Word alone calls us to faith in Christ.
- God's Word alone gives us every grace and blessing of life and salvation in Christ.
- God's Word alone gives us the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.
- Nothing is more important for the Christian than to hear the preaching and teaching of God's Word.
- Christ comes to us in no other way than through His Word.

Discussion Questions

What is the Third Commandment?

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

What does the word "sabbath" mean?

Rest

What is the only thing that can give us the rest of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ?

God's Word.

What does God's Word create in the hearts of those who hear and receive it?

Repentance and faith in Christ.

What does God's Word give us for Jesus' sake?

The forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation

Who was the woman who welcomed Jesus into her home?

Martha (She was the sister of Mary and Lazarus from Bethany)

Why did Martha welcome Jesus into her home?

She believed in Him and loved Him.

What did Martha's sister Mary do when Jesus came into Martha's home?

She sat at Jesus' feet and Heard His Word.

Was Mary sinning by listening to Jesus' Word?

No, she was receiving the one thing that she needed more than anything else in this world.

What was Martha distracted and occupying her time with?

Martha was occupied with all the things that she was doing to serve Jesus. She was also distracted with resentment for her sister Mary.

What angered Martha?

Her sister Mary was not helping her.

What does Martha accuse Jesus of and ask Him to do?

She accuses Jesus of not caring (for her) that Mary is not helping her with the work and asks Him to tell Mary to help her.

What is Martha actually asking Jesus to do?

To tell Mary to STOP listening to God's Word.

Is that ever something that we should desire?

No. We are never to despise preaching and God's Word, but to always hold it sacred and to always gladly hear and learn it because it is the One thing we need more than anything else in this world.

What does Jesus say to Martha?

That she is worried and troubled about many things, but that her sister Mary has chosen that good part (to hear God's Word), which will not be taken away from her.

What comforting promise is contained in Jesus' response to Martha for all those who desire to hear God's Word?

God's Word will never be taken away from them.

Were the kinds of activities that Martha was doing sinful?

They were not sinful in themselves, but to make anything more important than hearing God's Word is sin against the Third Commandment.

Who was Mary receiving when she was listening to God's Word?

Her Savior with all the gifts of His salvation.

Meditation on the Bible Story

God's Word is holy. It makes our lives holy when we hear, receive, and believe it. It calls us to repentance and faith in Jesus. It proclaims to us forgiveness of sins and gives us the gift of eternal life for Jesus' sake. God's Word strengthens us to live the Christian life, to suffer with patience, and to die without fear. God's Word helps us to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. God's Word gives us the peace of God that surpasses all human understanding. God's Word gives us Jesus with all the blessings of salvation. God gives us the Third Commandment to teach us that we need to hear God's Word and the preaching of it more than we need anything else in this world. God's Word is more important than anything that we might do or anything that might occupy our time. Without God's Word we cannot know our Savior, have the gift of salvation, or live faithfully in this world. This is why we are called not to despise preaching and His Word, but to hold it sacred and to gladly hear and learn it. Jesus' gently called Martha to repentance for being distracted from what she needed most. He also called her to repentance for resenting her sister Mary who was listening to Jesus' Word. Mary wanted God's Word, the one thing she needed more than anything else. We need God's Word too. Jesus promises those who gladly hear and learn God's Word that it shall never be taken away from them.

Prayer on the Bible Story

O Lord Jesus, we need to hear God's Word more than we need anything else in this world. Give us a true desire, delight, and eagerness to come to the Divine Service to hear the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. Grant us repentance for every way we are distracted from hearing Your Word by the things that we do or the things that we think are more important. Forgive us our sins against the Third Commandment and never take away Your Word from us; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.



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