

Making A Bad Decision About Good Things (1)

Luke 10:38-42

Intro. [A] The life and ministry of Jesus is filled with many incidents and situations.

1. Some of these focus on Jesus only.
2. Some focus on those with whom Jesus came into contact.

[B] These scriptures are more about two women and the decisions they made about a visit from Jesus, than Jesus Himself.

1. The time is uncertain, "Now it came to pass."
2. The place is unnamed, "... he entered into a certain village." It was Bethany, near Jeru.
3. He was welcomed by a friend. "... Martha received (welcomed gladly) him into her house.

[C] It was here in this circumstance that Martha made a bad decision.

- Vs. 41 1. She was anxious and bustling about many matters.
- Vs. 40 2. She was frustrated by Mary's decision.
3. She chose "many things" over the "few things" or the "one thing" that was necessary.

I. It Is Only Fair That We Establish The Character Of Martha.

[A] Her home was always open to Jesus.

1. "Martha received him into her house".
2. ὑποδέχομαι = "to accept or receive to one's self as if placing the arms under a person or thing". To receive to one's self with evident favor and kindness.
3. No doubt this included His companions.

3. "bid her therefore that she help me".
εἶπεν = "to say", "to order", "to command".

E. The reply of Jesus to Martha.

Vs. 41a 1. He pinpoints the source of her outburst.

2. "Martha, Martha" - He says her name twice, a token of His concern and personal affection.

3. "Careful" = μεριμνάω = "to have anxious or distracting concern".

4. "troubled" = τυρβαίω = "to make turbid", "to be in disorder", "jumbled or crowded together"

5. "many things" = πολὺς = of number, quantity.

F. The truth about the situation.

Vs. 42 1. "needful" = χρεία = use, advantage, service, as an action, using or use; need, necessity;

2. "but our wants are few, indeed there is only one thing we need" - Gspd.

3. "only a few things are really needed, perhaps only one" - Phi

G. Mary isn't doing anything wrong.

Vs. 42 1. "Mary has chosen that good part" μερίς = a division, an assigned portion, share

"good" = ἀγαθός = worthy of admiration

2. "The part that Mary has chosen is best" - NEB

3. To learn and to worship God is a good choice.

H. Jesus refuses to rebuke her.

Vs. 42 1. "... which shall not be taken away from her".

2. "... and you must not tear her away from it" - Phi

3. We should choose the "good part".

(over)