

HEAT IN THE KITCHEN
(LUKE 10:38-40)

THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE IS SET IN A VISIT OF OUR LORD TO THE VILLAGE OF BETHANY, TO THE HOME OF MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS.

THEIR HOME SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A PLACE WHERE THE LORD COULD FREQUENTLY COME FOR REST AND RELAXATION. IT WAS ONE OF THOSE RARE PLACES WHERE THE LORD COULD GO AND FEEL PERFECTLY AT HOME.

PROBABLY ALL OF US HAVE HAD A PLACE LIKE THAT IN OUR LIVES. THERE HAVE BEEN PLACES IN MY MINISTRY WHERE I FELT FREE AND PERFECTLY RELAXED.....TOTALLY AT EASE.

I THINK THAT QUITE FREQUENTLY, AFTER THE BUSY ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY, JESUS

TRAVELED OVER THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AND INTO THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF BETHANY.

THERE TO VISIT AT A HOME WHERE HE WAS WELCOME. I WONDER IF JESUS IS AT HOME
 IN YOUR HOME, IF YOU IN YOUR OWN HOME, HAVE OPENED UP YOUR DOORS TO HIM AND
 HAVE SAID, "LORD JESUS, YOU ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE."

WHAT JESUS DID IN THE HOME OF MARY AND MARTHA, JESUS IS WANTING TO DO AND
 WILL DO IN YOUR HOME.

IN (JOHN 11:5) THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT JESUS LOVED MARY AND MARTHA AND THEIR
 BROTHER, LAZARUS. IN THE (EXPERIENCES OF JOY) JESUS CHRIST WAS OFTEN THERE.
 WHEN (SORROW CAME) TO THIS HOME, HE WAS THERE. AND WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID IN
 THE HOME OF THESE THREE, HE IS WILLING TO DO IN OUR HOMES TODAY.

IF WE WILL OPEN UP OUR HOMES TO HIM, HE WILL DWELL THERE. JESUS CHRIST WILL
 BE THE SILENT LISTENER IN EVERY CONVERSATION. HE WILL BE THE UNSEEN GUEST AT
 EVERY MEAL.

IN THE JOYS AND IN THE SORROWS, JESUS WILL BE THERE AND WILL MINISTER TO OUR NEEDS. THIS IS A POIGNANT PASSAGE FROM THE WORD, AND IT GIVES US ONE OF THE (GREAT INTERVIEWS) IN JESUS' LIFE.

(I WANT US TO STUDY THIS PASSAGE AROUND 3 BASIC IDEAS.)
I WANT US TO SEE THIS PASSAGE FRAMED WITHIN 3 BASIC IDEAS.

1. NUMBER ONE, I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE SISTERS IN THE HOME.

IN THIS PASSAGE, PAZARUS DOES NOT COME INTO VIEW, BUT MARTHA AND MARY, THE TWO SISTERS IN THIS HOME, ARE PROMINENTLY PICTURED. THERE WERE SISTERS BY FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT IT BECOMES OBVIOUS THAT THESE TWO SISTERS WERE QUITE DIFFERENT IN TEMPERAMENT AND PERSONALITY.

WHAT IS TRUE IN THE LIVES OF HUMAN BEINGS, SO FAR AS THE FAMILY IS CONCERNED, IS ALSO TRUE IN THE LIVES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF GOD. WHEN THE

LORD SAVES US AND PUTS US INTO HIS FAMILY, WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT. WE HAVE

DIFFERENT EMPHASES, WE RESPOND TO OUR LORD IN DIFFERENT WAYS. I'M GLAD IT'S
LIKE THIS. THE LORD SAW TO IT. YOU ARE NOT LIKE ME, AND I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
 I HAVE A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE LORD AND YOU DO, TOO. WHEN THE LORD SAVES
 US, HE DOESN'T MAKE ROBOTS OUT OF US, AND HE DOESN'T DEMAND THAT WE ALL BE
 EXACTLY THE SAME.

THERE IS AN INFINITE VARIETY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD. GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE
 DIFFERENT MEANS OF SERVING THE LORD JESUS, AND SO THIS IS WHAT WE VIEW IN THE
 LIVES OF THESE TWO SISTERS, MARTHA AND MARY.

WHEN WE LOOK AT (MARTHA), HER WORK IMPRESSES US. MARTHA'S WAY OF EXPRESSING HER
 LOVE FOR JESUS WAS IN THE AREA OF HER WORK. SHE WOULD SHOW HER LOVE FOR HIM
 BY WHAT SHE DID FOR HIM.

IT IS QUITE SIGNIFICANT THAT THE BIBLE SAYS, IN (VERSE 38), THAT IT WAS MARTHA

WHO RECEIVED THE LORD JESUS INTO HER HOUSE. SHE OPENED THE DOOR OF WELCOME TO THE SON OF GOD. THAT, DEAR FRIENDS, SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT MARTHA. IT IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING WHEN A WOMAN HAS ENOUGH LOVE FOR THE LORD TO OPEN UP THE DOOR OF HER HOME AND INVITE HIM IN.

SHE WAS THE (HOSTESS) OF THE HOUSE. BUT NO SOONER HAD MARTHA WELCOMED THE LORD THAN SHE WAS (ON HER WAY INTO THE KITCHEN,) AND SHE WAS BUSILY MAKING SURE THAT THE TABLE WAS SPREAD EXACTLY RIGHT. SHE WAS SEEING THAT THE SERVANTS WERE ON THEIR TOES AND THAT THEY WERE DOING THE JOB.

SHE WAS SCURRYING ALL AROUND, TENDING TO THE VARIOUS DETAILS OF THE KITCHEN. SHE WAS BAKING OVER HERE. SHE WAS BROILING OVER HERE. SHE IS COOKING RIGHT THERE, FOR THIS WAS MARTHA'S PERSONALITY.

ALL OF US HAVE SEEN MARTHA. SHE IS PRACTICAL IN HER PERSONALITY. SHE THOUGH

("I'LL SHOW MY LOVE FOR JESUS BY WHAT I DO FOR HIM.") THE MARTHAS AMONG US ARE PRACTICALLY ORIENTED, AND THEY GIVE THEMSELVES TO A CONSTANT ROUND OF ACTIVITIES. THE MARTHAS IN OUR CHURCHES ARE THOSE WHO CAN BE DEPENDED ON TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES. THEY WILL ATTEND ALL OF THE MEETINGS. THEY ARE CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE.

THANK GOD FOR THE MARTHAS IN OUR CHURCH. WHERE WOULD WE BE IN OUR CHURCHES, WERE IT NOT FOR THOSE WITH MARTHA-TYPE PERSONALITIES WHO ARE WILLING TO DO THE NITTY-GRITTY TASKS THAT HAVE TO BE DONE TO PERFORM THE WORK OF THE LORD?

HERE WAS MARTHA WITH HER STRONG POINT, (WORK.) BUT ON THE OTHER HAND,

+ THERE WAS MARY.

() VERSE 39 SAYS THAT MARY SAT AT JESUS' FEET AND HEARD HIS WORDS. THE EMPHASIS IN THE LIFE OF MARY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WORSHIP.

MARY WAS SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS AND LEARNING OF HIM. I HAVE THE IDEA THAT MARY WAS MORE CONTEMPLATIVE IN HER PERSONALITY.

MARY THOUGHT, "I'LL SHOW MY LOVE FOR THE LORD BY SPENDING TIME WITH HIM. I WILL GET AS CLOSE TO HIM AS I POSSIBLY CAN. I'LL SIT AT HIS FEET."

IN THOSE DAYS, FOR A PERSON TO SIT AT THE FEET OF ANOTHER PROBABLY MEANT ONE OF TWO THINGS. IT MEANT THAT THEY PLACED THEMSELVES AT THE FEET AS A LEARNER OR AS A WORSHIPER. BOTH WERE TRUE OF MARY.

I THINK MARY REALIZED WHO THE SON OF GOD WAS AND WHAT HE HAD COME INTO THIS WORLD TO DO, AND SO SHE WORSHIPED HIM AS SHE SAT AT HIS FEET.

WHEN I STUDY THE LIFE OF MARY, I DISCOVER THAT EVERY TIME MARY IS PRESENTED IN THE (NEW TESTAMENT) SHE IS "AT THE FEET OF JESUS." (3 TIMES) WE SEE MARY THERE, AND EVERY TIME, SHE IS SITTING AT HIS FEET.

YOU REMEMBER THE APOSTLE PAUL, IN PHILIPPIANS 3:10, MADE THIS GREAT STATEMENT

"THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING."

MARY FULFILLS THAT DESIRE, THAT THREEFOLD ASPIRATION, OF PAUL.

THE FIRST TIME WE SEE HER IN THIS PASSAGE HERE. SHE HAD COME TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU GET TO KNOW JESUS.

NOW HOW DO YOU GET TO KNOW JESUS? WHAT IS THE SECRET OF AN INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST? WE BELIEVE THAT THE LIVING WORD, JESUS CHRIST, HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US IN HIS WRITTEN WORD, THE BIBLE, . . . AND WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AS WE READ THE WORD OF GOD.

I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO GET YOUR BIBLES AND BEGIN READING THROUGH THEM. (READ THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR PLAN). AS YOU LISTEN TO THE

WORD OF GOD, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT YOU LEARN MORE AND MORE ABOUT JESUS.

YOU CAN'T LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS AND (NOT LOVE) JESUS MORE. WHY, THE MORE I
LEARN ABOUT JESUS, THE MORE I LOVE HIM. THE MORE I LEARN OF HIS INTEREST IN
 ME, THE MORE I LOVE HIM. THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME, THE
 MORE I LOVE HIM.

MARY'S EMPHASIS WAS SITTING AT HIS FEET, LISTENING TO HIS WORD. I HAVE THE
 IDEA THAT ON MONDAY MORNING, WHEN WASHDAY CAME ALONG, MARY WOULD GET HER
 WASHING DONE, AND THEN SHE WOULD HURRY OFF TO HEAR JESUS TEACH THE WORD OF GOD
 OF COURSE, TUESDAY WAS "IRONING DAY," AND SHE WOULD GET HER IRONING DONE, AND
 THEN HURRY OFF TO SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS AND TO HEAR HIS WORD.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID, "THAT I MAY KNOW.....THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION."

† IN THE (ELEVENTH CHAPTER OF JOHN) WE HAVE THE ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF LAZARUS.

WHEN MARY RECEIVED THE WORD THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS COMING, EVEN THOUGH BELATEDLY, SHE RAN OUT TO MEET HIM. SHE FELL AT HIS FEET AND SHE CRIED, "LORD IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE MY BROTHER WOULDN'T HAVE DIED."

JESUS ANSWERED, "I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE."

SHE LEARNED THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AT HIS FEET.

THE THIRD TIME WE SEE MARY AT THE FEET OF JESUS, SHE COMES TO KNOW ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING. IN (JOHN 12) WE ARE TOLD THAT MARY HAD SAVED UP SOME EXPENSIVE PERFUME, PROBABLY WORTH ABOUT A YEAR'S WAGES IN THE CURRENCY OF THAT TIME. SHE TOOK THAT EXPENSIVE PERFUME AND Poured IT ON THE FEET OF JESUS, AND THEN SHE WIPED THE FEET OF JESUS WITH HER OWN HAIR.

THERE SHE WAS, AT THE FEET OF JESUS, SHARING THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING.

MARY HAD LEARNED THE SECRET OF WHERE TO LIVE. SHE HAD LEARNED THAT SHE MUST

THERE WERE THE (TWO) SISTERS, SO DIFFERENT AND YET, SO VITAL.

MARTHA WORKED. MARY WORSHIPED.

2. TWO, I WANT US TO LIIK AT THE (SCENE IN THE HOME.) THEY HAD A REAL "SCENE"

THERE. IT ALMOST RUINED THE HAPPY OCCASION. GET THE PICTURE.

HERE WAS MARTHA BUSILY AT WORK IN THE KITCHEN, AND THEN RIGHT AMID THE PARTY,

MARTHA DID SOMETHING THAT CAME CLOSE TO DESTROYING THE BEAUTY OF THIS

EXPERIENCE.

I SEE MARTHA AS HER BROW IS SWEATING. I SEE THE FROWN ON HER FACE.

I SEE HERE WITH A PLATTER IN ONE HAND, AND WITH A PITCHER IN THE OTHER.

ALL HOT AND BOTHERED, SHE BURST INTO THE PRESENCE OF JESUS, AND THEY HAD A
SCENE.

NOW LOOK AT MARTHA. I WANT YOU TO SEE MARTHA (IN) THREE WAYS.

1- FIRST (MARTHA FRETTING.) VERSE 40: "BUT MARTHA WAS CUMBERED ABOUT MUCH SERVING"

THE WORD "CUMBERED" THERE MEANS SHE WAS DISTRACTED, AND THE WORD LITERALLY
 COULD BE TRANSLATED, "SHE WAS DRAGGED ABOUT."

THE PROBLEM WAS THAT MARTHA WAS NOT HANDLING THE WORK, BUT THE WORK WAS
 HANDLING MARTHA. THE WORK WAS CAUSING MARTHA TO BE FRETFUL. SHE WAS SO
BUSILY ENGAGED IN WORKING FOR JESUS, THAT SHE FOUND HERSELF IN A POSITION OF
 BEING DISTRACTED AND DRAGGED ABOUT. SHE WAS IN DANGER OF OFFENDING THE VERY
ONE SHE WAS WORKING FOR.

✓ I CAN ALMOST SEE THE SITUATION. IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DIDN'T HAVE AIR-CONDITIO
ED KITCHENS OR MICROWAVE OVERTNS EITHER. THEY HAD LITTLE FIRES IN THE KITCHEN
 AND THAT FIRE OF DRIED THORN BUSHES AND CAMEL'S DUNG COULD BE HOT AND
UNCORMFORTABLE.

PERSPIRATION WAS POURING FROM HER BODY, AND SHE WAS BUSY, BUSY. SHE WAS SO
DISTRACTED BY HER WORK THAT IT BECAME HER GREATEST ENEMY. THAT IS THE PICTUR

THERE ARE MULTITUDES OF CHRISTIANS WHO ARE BUSILY ENGAGED IN WORKING FOR THE LORD, BUT THEY ARE NOT SPENDING (TIME WITH) THE LORD.

THERE ARE LOADS OF CHRISTIANS WHO ARE FRETFUL, IRRITATED, AND AGGRAVATED IN THE VERY WORK THEY ARE DOING IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOUR WORK FOR JESUS IS CAUSING YOU FRUSTRATION AND ANXIETY, IS DISTRACTING YOU AND KEEPING YOU FROM FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS, THEN THERE IS PLENTY WRONG WITH THE WORK YOU ARE RENDERING. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR CHRISTIANS TO GET IRRITATED.

YOU SAY, "WELL, PREACHER, ARE YOU SETTING YOURSELF UP AS AN EXAMPLE?

EVER

DON'T YOU GET IRRITATED?" YES, I DO, BUT THERE IS STILL NO EXCUSE FOR IT.

I SHOULDN'T DO IT. SERVING JESUS OUGHT TO BE A JOY. IT OUGHT TO BE A

THRILL TO SERVE THE LORD.

MY FRIENDS, IF YOUR WORK FOR JESUS HAS BECOME A FRUSTRATION, AND YOU ARE

FRETFUL AND IRRITABLE IN YOUR SERVICE FOR HIM, THEN THERE IS SOMETHING MISSING
IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM. WE CHRISTIANS OUGHT NOT TO BECOME FRETFUL AND
 IRRITATED AT HOME, SHOULD WE?

WE CAN GET IRRITATED, AND OUR WORDS BECOME SHARP, AND WE PUT BAD INFLECTIONS
 ON HOW WE SPEAK, AND OUR IRRITABILITY HINDERS OUR TESTIMONY AT HOME. SOME-
 TIMES THAT HAPPENS OUT IN LIFE.

I WAS WITH A GOOD (CHRISTIAN MAN) SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. DURING THE COURSE OF THE
MEAL, HE BECAME EXTREMELY DEMANDING OF THE WAITRESS. THE COFFEE WASN'T
 BROUGHT TO HIM ON TIME. HE GOT VERY INSULTED. THEN THE FOOD DIDN'T SUIT HIM
 AND HE SENT IT BACK TWO OR THREE TIMES. OH, HE WAS SO IRRITABLE, AND THEN
 WHEN THE MEAL WAS OVER, HE PULLED OUT A GOSPEL TRACT, GAVE IT TO HER.

AND I SAID, "OH, MY SOUL, DON'T DO THAT!" WHAT KIND OF TESTIMONY IS THAT FOR
 A CHRISTIAN WHEN WE ARE IRRITABLE AND HATEFUL AND DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE

THERE WAS MARTHA. FRETTING.

BUT I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT MARTHA, NOT ONLY FRETTING BUT ALSO MARTHA RESENTING

✓ SHE WAS (FILLED WITH RESENTMENT.) I SEE MARTHA AS SHE CAME TO THE DOOR AND

LOOKED OUT THERE. SHE SAW MARY SITTING AT THE FEET OF THE LORD, AND RESENT-
MENT BOILED UP IN HER HEART.

SHE SAID TO HERSELF, "WHY, OF ALL THINGS, WOULD YOU LOOK AT MY SISTER? I

HAVE ALL THIS WORK TO DO BACK HERE IN THE KITCHEN, AND THERE SHE IS, SITTING
AT THE FEET OF JESUS, NOT HELPING ME AT ALL.

SO SHE BURST IN ON THE LORD AND SAID, IN (VERSE 40) "LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT
MY SISTER HAS LEFT ME TO SERVE HERE ALONE?"

SHE WAS RESENTFUL TOWRAD MARY. SHE WAS IMPLYING THAT HER SISTER WANS'T DOING

I DO NOT BELIEVE MARY WAS SHIRKING HER RESPONSIBILITY. I BELIEVE THAT MARY WAS DOING HER PART, FOR WE MAY HAVE MISSED A WORD IN VERSE 30.

"SHE HAD A SISTER CALLED MARY WHICH (HERE IS THE WORD) ALSO SAT AT JESUS FEET." (DO YOU SEE THE IMPLICATION OF THAT WORD ALSO?

MARY SAT AT THE FEET OF JESUS ALSO... IT MEANS THAT MARY HAD ALREADY DONE HER PART IN THE KITCHEN. MARY WAS NOT ONLY A WORSHIPER, SHE WAS ALSO A WORKER.

THE PROBLEM WAS NOT THAT MARY HADN'T DONE ENOUGH WORK FOR THE LORD. THE PROBLEM WAS SHE HAD NOT DONE ENOUGH WORK TO PLEASE MARTHA. THE PROBLEM WAS MARTHA.

I THINK MARTHA HAD AN ELIJAH COMPLEX, I REALLY DO. MARTHA THOUGHT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE. MARTHA THOUGHT HER MANNER OF SERVING JESUS AND LOVING JESUS WAS THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD DO IT, AND WHAT SHE WAS RESENTING ON THE PART OF MARY, WAS THAT MARY DIDN'T COME IN AND STEW WITH HER.

MARTHA FELT HER OWN IMPORTANCE AND FELT THAT WHAT SHE WAS DOING FOR JESUS WAS
SO IMPORTANT, THAT MARY'S PART WAS NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL.

THAT'S THE WAY MANY REACT TODAY. SHE WAS RESENTFUL AGAINST HER SISTER.

SHE WAS RESENTFUL AGAINST JESUS. LOOK AT HER. SHE ASKED, "LORD, DON'T YOU
CARE?"

✓ I RECALL THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS HOLLERED THAT ONE TIME AS THEY WERE OUT ON
THE SEA OF GALILEE, AND A GREAT STORM CAME UP. JESUS WAS ASLEEP IN THE SHIP,
AND THE DISCIPLES RUSHED TO WHERE JESUS WAS SLEEPING. THEY SHOOK HIM AND
YELLED, "MASTER, CAREST THOU NOT THAT WE PERISH?"

DON'T YOU CARE? NOW WE MAY NEVER HAVE PUT IT IN THOSE WORDS. WE MAY NEVER
HAVE EXPRESSED IT EXACTLY THAT WAY, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT ALL OF US SAY
THAT TO JESUS SOMETIMES.

WHEN WE GET SO BUSY WORKING FOR JESUS AND WE BECOME FRETFUL AND FILLED WITH ANXIETY, SOMETIMES WE REALLY SAY, "LORD, DON'T YOU CARE? LORD, DOESN'T IT MATTER TO YOU,"

WE FORGET 1 PETER 5:7, "CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM, FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU

OF COURSE, HE CARES. DOES JESUS CARE? "YES, HE CARES. I KNOW HE CARES,

HIS HEART IS TOUCHED WITH MY GRIEF. WHEN THE DAYS ARE WEARY AND THE LONG NIGHTS DREARY, I KNOW MY SAVIOUR CARES."

THERE IS MARTHA RESENTING,

✓ THEN MARTHA WAS DICTATING

DID YOU NOTICE THAT MARTHA CALLED JESUS "LORD" AND THEN PROCEEDED TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO? "LORD, BID HER COME HELP ME,"

MANY OF US DO THAT SOMETIMES. WE WANT TO TELL JESUS HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

MARTHA'S SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WAS MORE ACTIVITY. MARTHA WANTED TO SOLVE
 THE DISTURBANCE IN THE HOME BY MAKING MARY GET JUST AS ACTIVE AS SHE WAS,
 TO BECOME JUST AS FRETFUL AS SHE WAS.

THE TENDANCY FOR OVERACTIVE CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIANS WHOSE SOLE RESPONSE TO
 JESUS CHRIST IS TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM, IS TO INCREASE WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE DANGERS FACING MODERN CHRISITANITY IS THAT WE HAVE
 THE IDEA THAT ALL WE HAVE TO DO IN OUR RELATIONSHIP FOR JESUS IS JUST WORK,
 WORK, WORK.

IF WE CAN GO TO ENOUGH MEETINGS, AND IF WE CAN GET ENOUGH STUDY-COURSE AWARDS
 AND IF WE CAN BE ON ENOUGH COMMITTEES, AND DO ENOUGH THINGS, THEN SOMEHOW
 WE ARE GOING TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF JESUS CHRIST.

IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. SO A SCENE WAS GOING ON IN THE HOME

3. NUMBER THREE, THE SOLUTION, JESUS IS SO TENDER, JESUS IS SO KIND,

JESUS SPOKE TO HER. ("MARTHA, MARTHA.")

I CAN FEEL THE COMPASSION THERE. OH, THERE IS A MILD REBUKE THERE, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE?

I WOULD HAVE SAID, "LOOK HERE, MARTHA, YOU MORON, YOU GET BACK IN THAT KITCHEN

YOU ARE AS WRONG AS YOU CAN BE, AND YOU GET IN THERE AND SHUT THE DOOR, AND ALSO SHUT YOUR MOUTH." THAT IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE.

2 GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT WHICH SISTER THEY HAD RATHER MARRY AND ONE OF

THEM SAID, "WELL, I THINK I'LL LIKE TO HAVE MARTHA BEFORE DINNER AND MARY AFTER

DINNER." THE OTHER ONE SAID, "NO, I THINK I'LL TAKE MARY ALL THE TIME,

BECAUSE TO EAT A MEAL PREPARED BY ONE AS IRRITATED AND AS FRETFUL AS THAT,

WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE VERY TASTY."

I THINK I'D TAKE MARY ALL THE TIME TOO. BUT JESUS WAS KIND.

HE SAID, "MARTHA, MARTHA," AND SO JESUS SOLVED THE PROBLEM. HOW DOES
 JESUS GO ABOUT SOLVING THE PROBLEM?

NUMBER ONE, HE CALMED HER ANXIETY. "MARTHA, MARTHA, YOU ARE CAREFUL AND
 TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS."

THAT WORD "CAREFUL" IS OUR WORD "ANXIOUS." THE SAME WORD PAUL USED IN
 PHILIPPIANS 4:6, "BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING; BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND
 SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD."

JESUS WAS SAYING, "MARTHA, YOU ARE SO EASILY WORRIED. MARTHA, YOU ARE SO
 WORRIED ABOUT SO MANY THINGS,"

DID YOU KNOW THAT MOST OF THE THINGS WE WORRY ABOUT NEVER COME TO PASS.

I WAS READING THE OTHER DAY, THAT IF YOU WOULD MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE THINGS
 THAT YOU WORRY ABOUT, AND THE THINGS THAT YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT, YOU WILL

DISCOVER THAT MOST OF THE THINGS YOU WORRY ABOUT, NEVER COME TO PASS,

AND MOST OF THE THINGS YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT, DO COME TO PASS. SO WHY WORRY?

✓ BUT MOST OF US DO. I WAS READING THIS WEEK ABOUT ARCHBISHOP TRENCH, ONE OF THE GREAT NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARS, AND HIS SYNONYMS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ARE TERRIFIC VOLUMES, BUT THE ARCHBISHOP FOR SOME REASON GOT THIS MORBID FEAR THAT THE LIMBS OF HIS BODY WERE GOING TO BECOME INSENSITIVE SO HE WOULD LOSE ALL FEELING. HE BECAME OBSESSED WITH IT.

ONE NIGHT, HE WAS SITTING AT AN ELABORATE STATE DINNER, AND HE BLURTED OUT, "OH, IT FINALLY HAPPENED. IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED. I HAVEN'T GOT A BIT OF FEELING IN MY RIGHT LEG," AND THE LADY SITTING NEXT TO HIM SAID, "YOUR GRACE, IF IT WILL BE ANY COMFORT TO YOU, IT'S MY LEG YOU ARE PINCHING!"

WE WORRY ABOUT THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN.

HE SAID, "MARTHA, MARTHA, YOU ARE SO FILLED WITH ANXIETY, AND YOU ARE IN SUCH TURBULENCE ABOUT SO MANY THINGS."

GUESS WHAT JESUS DID? HE SIMPLY SPOKE THE WORD, AND HE CALMED HER ANXIETY.

✓ TAHT IS WHAT YOU NEED, FRETFUL CHRISTIAN. THAT IS WHAT YOU NEED TODAY, BUSY CHRISTIAN.

YOU NEED TO HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD JESUS, TAKING THE ANXIETY OUT OF YOUR HEART.

LISTEN TO JESUS: "COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT ARE WEARY AND HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

LISTEN TO JESUS CHRIST: "PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU:
NOT AS THE WORLD GIVETH GIVE I UNTO YOU."

HE SPEAKS HIS WORD, CALMING OUR ANXIETY.

✓ SECOND, (HE CORRECTED HER ACTIVITY) JESUS SAID, "MARTHA, THOU ART CAREFUL AND TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS, BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL: MARY HAS CHOSEN!"

AND THE WORD "PART" THERE IS RELATED TO A GREEK WORD THAT IS SOMETIMES
 TRANSLATED FELLOWSHIP.

"MARTHA, YOUR SISTER MARY HAS DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF PRIORITY. MARY HAS
 DISCOVERED HOW TO PUT WORSHIP AND WORK IN THE PROPER ORDER."

NOW THE SOLUTION TO MARTHA'S PROBLEM WAS NOT TO CEASE HER ACTIVITY.

THAT IS THE MISTAKE OF THE "DEEPER-LIFE MOVEMENT." THE DEEPER-LIFE APPROACH
 TO THE WHOLE SITUATION IS STOP ALL ACTIVITY, QUIT COMING TO THE SERVICES.
 DON'T BE SO LEGALISTIC AS TO ATTEND ALL THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH. DON'T DA
 GO TO THE STATED VISITATION TIME,....THAT IS LEGALISTIC.

THE EXTREME APPROACH TO THE DEEPER-LIFE MOVEMENT IS TO GO HOME, SIT DOWN,
 AND LET THE LORD DO IT ALL.

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU. YOU CAN SIT HOME AND LET THE LORD DO IT ALL,
 BUT IF YOU DON'T GET UP AND GO TO THE KITCHEN, YOU WILL STARVE TO DEATH!

THE SOLUTION TO MARTHA'S DILEMMA WAS NOT TO CEASE HER ACTIVITY, JESUS
CHRIST DIDN'T TELL HER TO STOP DOING WHAT SHE WAS DOING, BUT RATHER JESUS
POINTED HER TO PUTTING THINGS IN THE PROPER ORDER.

MARY HAD DISCOVERED THE PRIORITY, MARY UNDERSTOOD THAT WORK MUST PROCEED
FROM WORSHIP.

MY FRIENDS, OUR ACTIVITY IS ONLY A MINISTRY AS IT FLOWS FORM OUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS CHRIST. IF YOU ARE BUSY COMING TO THE SERVICES, IF YOU ARE BUSY
ATTENDING MEETINGS, IF YOU ARE BUSY SERVING ON BOARDS AND COM-ITTEES, IF YOU
BUSY
ARE/VISITING AND DOING ALL OF YOUR ACTIVITES, YET YOU ARE NOT DAILY MEETING
JESUS CHRIST.....SITTING AT HIS FEET, LISTENING TO HIS WORD.....YOU ARE
DESTINED TO BECOME A FRUSTRATED, FRETFUL CHRISTIAN.

AND WE MUST LEARN TO CHOOSE THAT "GOOD PART."

"ONE THING THOU LACKEST" IS GOD'S WORD TO THE SINNER, BUT GOD'S WORD TO THE SAINT IS, "ONE THING IS NEEDFUL," NEEDFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS IS A VITAL PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS ON A DAILY BASIS.

IN JOHN 15:5 JESUS SAID, IN ESSENCE, "IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU, YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT, FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING."

YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT, WHEN YOU SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS, LEARN HIS WORD, AND LET JESUS SPEAK TO YOU, YOU DEVELOP A PERSONAL WALK WITH HIM. THEN YOU WILL SEE THAT YOUR WORK FOR HIM WILL BE THE NATURAL OUTFLOW OF YOUR PERSONAL WALK WITH HIM.

THE MESSAGE IS NOT TO STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING. IT IS NOT TO RESIGN FROM THE COMMITTEE, NOT TO RESIGN YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, BUT TO FALL AT THE FEET OF JESUS. THAT IS THE ONE THING THAT IS NEEDED.

DID IT WORK? I THINK IT DID, TURN TO JOHN 12:2 IN THE PASSAGE OF LUKE 10

THERE WERE PROBABLY FOUR PEOPLE PRESENT: MARY, MARTHA, LAZARUS, AND THE LORD

JESUS. MARTHA WAS SERVING FOR FOUR PEOPLE, AND SHE WAS "CUMBERED ABOUT,"

ALL FILLED WITH FRUSTRATION AND ANXIETY, SERVING FOUR PEOPLE.

X BUT WHEN YOU COME TO JOHN 12, ON THE BASIS OF PARALLEL ACCOUNTS IN THE

GOSPELS, IT SEEMS THAT THE TWELVE APOSTLES WERE THERE, PLUS JESUS. IF YOU

COUNT SIMON THE LEPER, THERE WERE AT LEAST 17 PERSONS THERE FOR THAT OCCASION

17 PEOPLE, AND YET READ VERSE 2, "THERE THEY MADE HIM A SUPPER AND MARTHA

SERVED."

NO FRUSTRATION, NO ANXIETY, NO TURBULENCE. WHY? MARTHA HAD LEARNED THE

SECRET OF SERVING AS A RESULT OF CLOSER FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

MAY GOD HELP US TO LEARN TO SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS.....

.....AND THEN SERVE HIM.