

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson 3

Peace

Jesus Visits Mary and Martha
Luke 10:38-42

Jesus ministered in Galilee for two years and returned to Judea and Perea, territories near Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem, He healed a man by the Pool of Siloam and told a parable about himself, the Good Shepherd. In Judea, He told the parable of the Good Samaritan answering the question, “who is my neighbor?” Afterwards, He traveled on to a place called Bethany (see John 11-12). While in Bethany, He visited Martha and Mary. This lesson is about stopping and listening to what is important in ones life. Chores are important, but the appropriate attitude one has is more important.

Introduction

Each of the four gospel writers had to decide what sayings and stories about Jesus’ life they would tell. John said, “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25). The following is a short story, but has a powerful message. While reading it, think about what the lesson is in it for you.

Bethany is a small town and a place Jesus had visited before. In John 11 we read about when Jesus was in Bethany and raised Lazarus from the dead. On other occasions while in Bethany, He ate dinner with Simon the Leper and was anointed by Mary (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8). Jesus may have been visiting Mary and Martha at this time because it was the Feast of

Tabernacles, which was held in Jerusalem. Martha busied herself preparing for Jesus, their special guest, while her sister Mary sat at Jesus’ feet.

Peace is the third Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Peace in our world today is rare. From this lesson we will learn about the attitude of peace Mary had while drinking in Jesus’ words.

Progression of Events

Both Mary and Martha loved Jesus very much. One sister showed her love through being hospitable and the other showed her love by stopping to listen to Jesus.

- “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house” (Luke 10:38). Notice that it is Martha who invites Jesus to stay. It is also Martha’s home. This is how Jesus worked in His ministry. He would find a home that was hungry for the spiritual food He had to offer while preaching in a village (Luke 9:4-5; 10:5-7).
- “And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard His word” (Luke 10:39). Believe it or not, this is a radical move on Jesus’ part. Sitting at the feet of Jesus was a position of disciple/student. For Jesus to allow this when women were not to be taught or allowed to read the Torah is remarkable.
- “But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and

said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me’” (Luke 10:40). It doesn’t take much imagination to understand the resentment Martha has toward Mary. Here she is working so hard to prepare the meal, set the table and single handily be hospitable. How discourteous of Mary. Doesn’t she think Martha may have wanted to just sit and listen to what Jesus had to say? Martha couldn’t because she was under pressure to serve the meal. After all, it was the woman’s job to be hospitable.

- Any of us who have a sibling have been in this position. It doesn’t take much imagination to understand how angry Martha must have been.

Climax

- At last, Martha allowed her angry attitude to take over. She interrupted Jesus and appeared to rebuke Him for allowing Mary to sit and listen. She was way out of line. Note how she commands Jesus, “**Tell her to help me!**” She stepped over the line and became the rude hostess.
- “And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things’” (Luke 10:41). Jesus was kind and gentle in his correction of Martha. He soothed her anger and told her He understood why she felt the way she did. Poor Martha had more to do than she could accomplish and she was worried and upset about it. It is important to note that Jesus did not correct Martha about her business in preparing a meal; He corrected her about her attitude. He knew what her true motivation for service was. She wasn’t preparing the meal out of love but rather out of duty. It is somewhat surprising that Jesus had this response. Certainly we all agree that Mary wasn’t being very responsible especially when one understands the culture of the

day. Martha allowed her anxiety to get in the way of clear thinking and because of that, Jesus rebuked her for her bitterness. Jesus never told Martha to get out of the kitchen, or to be like her sister Mary.

Conclusion

“But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42). What is the one thing that is needed that Jesus is referring to? Martha was so busy worrying about the physical things, she forgot to stop and enjoy the fellowship of those who were guests in her home. She tried to please Jesus with her performance of being a hard worker and making the perfect meal. Jesus wants us to remove the burden of guilt that each of us puts ourselves under and instead focus on listening to what He is trying to tell us. Mary on the other hand, stopped to listen. The truth and understanding of Jesus’ gift of salvation is the one thing needed. No one can take that away.

Peace

Peace is given. It is not a fruit we work to have. Peace is given to us through the Holy Spirit and it is a lasting peace. Worldly peace is the absence of war and conflict. The peace we have with Christ is calming, tranquil and a deep lasting belief that we need not fear the present or the future.

Memory Verse

“...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. This is a short story. Why do you think it was important to tell?
2. How did Martha try to please Jesus?
3. How did Mary try to please Jesus?
4. Why would it be unusual to see Mary sitting at Jesus' feet?
5. Whose home did Jesus go to in Bethany?
6. Why was Martha angry with Mary?
7. What were the rude words Martha said to Jesus?
8. What is meant by "But one thing is needed"?
9. In the previous less, joy was discussed. Do you think you can experience real joy if you are not at peace? Why or Why not.
10. Describe whit it means to be at peace in Christ.
11. It doesn't matter what kind of attitude you have, just as long as you do what your job is.
True or False
12. This story teaches that you do not have to do your chores or help out. True or False

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Lesson 3 Map



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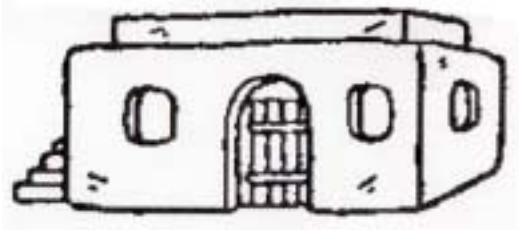


Materials

- 2 litre milk/juice carton (or tissue box or similar sized box).
- Template printed on stiff paper.
 1. Template 1 – easy four sides of house.
 2. Template 2 – doors, windows etc.
- Optional - paint, sand

Method – Template 1

- Cut out 2 litre milk/juice carton so that it is 4 inches high. Turn upside down so that bottom of carton is house roof.
- Color in and decorate walls as desired. Cut out and glue on outside of carton.
- Optional – paint glue on outside and sprinkle sand to give sandstone finish.



Method – Template 2

- Paint (if desired) box.
- Color in doors, windows, steps and plants. Cut out and glue on house where desired.
- Optional – paint glue on outside and sprinkle sand to give sandstone finish.
- Alternatively, if making a two story house use template 2 with milk carton for top story and template 2 (using small tissue box) for bottom story.

Furniture

To craft kitchen chairs, cut a plastic drinking straw into 1-inch pieces for legs (four for each chair) and glue them to the bottom of milk jug caps. A cardboard tissue tube cut into 1-inch rings will serve as chair backs. Cut the rings into halves and then glue on half onto each seat.

