

Grace for the Over Achiever

"Amazed By Grace" Series- Part 04

Connect: Give some thought to a recent act of service that you provided to others. What did you really enjoy about the experience? What did you learn about those whom you served?

Hook:

Perhaps there have been times in the past, when your acts of giving and service did not end with the expected results. In our sermon lesson this week, Pastor Nathan shared with us the story of a lady who was very intense and intentional with her service to others. Who could think of a lovelier thing for a woman to be doing than to be showing Jesus and his followers the hospitality of a meal? And yet Martha seems to explode with anger, due to the fact that her sister, Mary, is not helping her in the kitchen, but rather is sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha demands that Jesus correct the situation.

Today, let us listen well to the words of this text, and learn from it, valuable lessons concerning our own service for the Lord.

Book:

Luke 10:38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Luke 10:39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what He taught.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to You that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

Luke 10:41 But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details!

Luke 10:42 There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." -Luke 10:38-42 New Living Translation

Look:

Read the following six statements and after each one, discuss if you agree or disagree with that statement and give your reasons why:

(1) It is Martha who is the central person in our text, not Mary.

(2) Martha was not jealous that Mary was spending time with Jesus, but angry that Mary was not helping her.

(3) Martha does not see any problem with herself, but she blames those who are innocent of wrongdoing.

(4) It is not Martha's service that was wrong, but her attitude in that service.

(5) Martha's frustration, anger, and temper tantrum may not be excusable, but it is at least understandable.

(6) Martha's words reflect not only anger, but a lack of reverence and a lack of submission.

Based on your discussion of the above six statements, how would you answer the following three questions:

1. What happened to Martha's ministry?
2. What went wrong with her motivation?
3. Why was Martha mad at Jesus?

Making it Personal:

1. What is the best or right reason for serving or giving to others?
2. In what ways, are you more like Martha, rather than Mary?
3. What changes does God need to make in you as you continue to serve Him?