

**Episode:** God and His Family No. 07

**Narrator:** Martha

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 10:38-42

**Story Summary:** God's children can easily be distracted

**Location:** Israel

**Time:** circa 50 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 10:41-42

Martha has a unique distinction in the Bible. She is the only person described as being distracted! Luke 10:40 says, "But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made." The preparations had to be made, so they were important. But the nature of the sentence implies that something more important was available to Martha.

This story starts in Luke 10:38 with Jesus and his disciples on their way to an unspecified location, but most likely to Jerusalem. They came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. In later verses the village will be identified as Bethany, a village located a few miles east of Jerusalem. Later verses will also lead to the likelihood that the house is owned by Martha, her sister Mary, and her brother Lazarus.

The following verse, Luke 10:39, says that Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he had to say. The social implication is not obvious to Americans. The Lord was a guest in their house, so Martha and Mary were obligated to go to any length to be good hosts by washing the feet of the Lord and his disciples, and feeding them. The text indicates that Jesus sat down and Mary immediately sat in front of him to listen to him. An obvious slap in his face...according to custom.

Back to Luke 10:40, Martha acts as a proper hostess and is irritated, maybe embarrassed, by her sister's actions. She complains to Jesus and asks him to remedy the situation.

In Luke 10:41-42, Jesus turns things upside down. He tells Martha that she is worried and upset about many things, few are important. He says that Mary has chosen what is better. He challenges her to examine her value system so she can compare things appropriately and choose the more important things.

In Matthew 13:22, Jesus is explaining the Parable of the Sower and describes the seed falling among the thorns. He says they represent the people who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word. In other words, these people know the word is important, but they are unable to value it as being more important than worries of life and the trappings of wealth.

The challenge of Jesus stands to us today when entertainment is so highly valued. We need to constantly be examining our value systems to make sure they allow us to compare our different alternatives and choose those things that are better and more important.