

Commendations

Title – One Thing is Necessary

Prayer

Purpose/Review

Commendations....

Who doesn't enjoy receiving a commendation...?

Commendation – praise; a message expressing a favorable opinion

And what can make a commendation even better... is the one giving it...

Last week we looked at Jesus giving His praise...

His commendations...to Centurion because of his faith

Matthew 8:10... I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

This morning we will look at another story of Jesus giving his praises to someone...

Martha and Mary...

Before we get to our reading there is something fascinating to observe...

NOTE-

Something to observe that lets you know
That the hand of God was involved
When the books of the bible were written

Very often the stories that we read are randomly put together
There is a sense of order... a deeper lesson to discover

We have one of those lessons before us this morning...

QUESTION-

What are the 2 greatest commandments?

The First...

Love the Lord God with all of you heart, with all of your strength, and with all of your mind...

The Second...

Love your neighbor as yourself...

QUESTIONS-

What does that look like...?

What does it look like to love your neighbor as yourself...?

What does it look like to love the Lord God with all of your heart...?

ANSWER-

God doesn't leave it to our imagination for very long...

Just a few verses later we discover "How to love our neighbor" ... The Good Samaritan

EXPAND-

Then a few more verses... and we discover "How to Love God" Martha and Mary

Reading

Luke 10

38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me. 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Doctrinal

On the surface it appears that Martha was wrong and Mary was right...

Martha vilified because of her choices and Mary praised for hers..

EXPAND-

Let us dig a little deeper to discover all that God is teaching us...

Let's look at one verse from our reading in two different translations

SPOILER ALERT-

Mary is the sister who received the commendation from Jesus

However... we actually learn more from Martha about "How to Love God"

Luke 10 NASB

39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

Luke 10 NKJ

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who **also** sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Wow... one 4 letter word changes everything...

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who **also** sat at Jesus' feet...

Mary also sat at the feet of Jesus...

NOTE-

Jesus is comparing Mary sitting at His feet with someone else
Who had also been sitting at His feet

Who is who...???

Could it have been Martha sitting at the feet of Jesus... also...?

What did that look like...?

DEVELOP -

NOTE-

We know Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus were wealthy
Lazarus was buried in a private tomb
And Mary used expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO John 12:1-3
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John 12

1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Mary just happened to have an expensive bottle of perfume...?

NOTE-

Reading about Martha and Mary from different Gospels
Ends up telling us more about them

So there would have been multiple rooms in their home
It's possible that Martha and Mary were sitting at the feet of Jesus... together
When Martha got up to start preparing a meal

Then...noticing that her sister Mary was not helping
Martha returned to the room to address Jesus

SLIDE – Mary Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

And it is here that the conversation between Jesus and Martha are recorded for us...

We learn from something from both sisters...

But as I said... we learn more from Martha...

And what it means to... “Love the Lord”

Application

Loving the Lord

Martha understood the gift of hospitality

...Martha welcomed Him (Jesus) into her home.

Why is this so important to understand...?

Welcoming someone into your home is a gift...

True hospitality wants to make a person feel special

Hospitality – Love of strangers

Hebrews 13

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

In a practical sense... invite a stranger into your home orbit...

Maybe it's someone at work or the cashier at your favorite store

Maybe it's a neighbor who lives alone and has no one

Do not neglect to show hospitality...

For some have entertained angels without knowing it

Martha understood true hospitality...

Loving the Lord

Martha knew to go to Jesus first

Martha was distracted by many things... and what did she do...?

NOTE-

She came to Him... she went to Jesus first...

She didn't complain to her brother or anyone else

She went to Jesus first

EXAMPLE-

Have you ever had a challenge with someone else...?

Maybe it's a neighbor or someone at school...

What do you do...? Who do you go to first...?

Your spouse...? Your mom...? A friend...?

Go to Jesus first...!!!

1 Peter 5

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Don't be anxious... take it to Jesus...

DEVELOP-

Loving the Lord

Martha learned that she can tell Jesus anything

Imagine the tone of Martha's voice...

...Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.

We can tell Jesus anything....

This is such an important truth to understand...

Martha learned that no matter how great... no matter how trivial

We can bring all things to Jesus

John 16

30 Now we know that You know all things...

NOTE-

Stop for a moment and think about this verse
God is Omniscient... He knows all things

So... that problem that you feel to embarrassed to bring up in prayer...?

Jesus knows it already...

He delights for you to confide in Him in prayer...

Loving the Lord

Martha learned that true peace is found in one thing

41... Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part

NOTE-

Martha was challenged by the fact that Mary was at ease
While she was doing all of the work

Mary was at peace by being in the presence of the source of True Peace...

John 14

27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

NOTE-

Jesus reminded Martha – and us – what to be “concerned” with
Where our focus should be.... Jesus

What about Mary... What do we learn from her...?

Loving the Lord

Mary shows us that intimacy with Jesus must precede service

Mary's commendation of the Lord...

42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part

We make the choice to receive the living and active Word and the Spirit takes that Word in our heart and supernaturally transforms us from glory to glory into greater degrees of Christlikeness...**Dr. Bruce Hurt**

Revelation 3

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

NOTE-

Intimacy with Christ is a personal relationship between a believer and Jesus Christ
This relationship is central to the Christian faith
And it reflects our desire to know Jesus more

Loving the Lord

Mary shows us the importance of prioritizing Jesus

Seek first the Kingdom of God... Once we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good

We should want to know Jesus more fully

Philippians 3

8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord

CONCLUSION- LOVING THE LORD

First... it is absolutely necessary to have a well-balanced Christian walk...

The two elements of a Christian life are sitting at the feet of Jesus and then serving

Or receiving and giving... **the first must always precede the second**

John 10

9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

They will go in and they will go out...

Jesus first tells us to come... Before He tells us to go

NOTE-

The Lord did not rebuke Martha for her active service
Rather, He wanted to show her that sitting at His feet
Was necessary as the first requirement of successful service.

Second... it is absolutely necessary to grow in grace

When Martha came to Jesus with her course words... how did Jesus respond...?

...Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things

Close your eyes and listen to His words again... one can feel His grace...

The Christian must daily experience the wonder of grace, and daily grow in the gifts which grace can bring; and he must daily enter more and more deeply into the wonder which is in Jesus Christ... **William Barclay**

2 Peter 3

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Third... it is absolutely necessary to overcome self

Self... is our greatest enemy

Martha was irritated and distracted, and she complained

Have you ever gotten irritated and distracted
Because things weren't going the way you wanted them to go?

Have you ever found yourself complaining to God...?

Martha allowed self to come on the throne and this could have been prevented if she had known how to get low at the Saviour's feet... **Francis W. Dixon**

Psalm 95

6 Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

What is the one thing that is necessary....

First.... To Love the Lord God with all of your heart...

And Second.... to Serve Him with all of your strength...

CLOSE