

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

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

- “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. When you are angry with your brother or sister, do you go to your parents? If yes, what do they usually do?

- Martha 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. Would you have gone to Jesus and complained like Martha did? Why or Why not?

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. In your own words, why do you think Jesus responded to Martha the way He did?

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. What was Martha doing right and what was she doing wrong?

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). The one thing that is needed, that Jesus is referring to, is what?

- 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).

Answer the following questions:

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. Explain your answer

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

