

## Are You Sitting or Striving?

### Luke 10:38-40

<sup>38</sup> Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. <sup>40</sup> 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."

Martha was standing and talking. She was striving in an anxious spirit, talking over the Lord and accusing Him!

Jesus says Martha was worried and bothered about many things- she is being crushed under a cruel complexity.

Martha's diligence in showing hospitality was not wrong, but her attitude- her whole mode of operation- was.

She had failed to enter into His rest and began to strive, which means to work in her own strength.

It produced a certain, distinct misery in her demeanor, and caused her to miss the most important thing of all.

### Psalm 46:10-11

<sup>10</sup> "Cease *striving* and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Jesus- God himself- was sitting in her living room, speaking words of life!

Striving comes from calculating without God; **striving requires that I shut out the FACT of His presence.**

Mary was seated and listening to Jesus. She was abiding in His perfect peace, and feeding on His Word.

Jesus says Mary was engaged in the only necessary thing- she is sitting in a sweet simplicity.

Shift to the apparent carelessness of Jesus- does God not care, as Martha insists?

### Psalm 20:1-2

<sup>20</sup> May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you *securely* on high!

<sup>2</sup> May He send you help from the sanctuary And support you from Zion!

God will not send his servants from sweetly resting in His presence to assist you while you are striving.

Striving is poisonous to the spirit that is resting in simple faith.

What will God do for us when we are stuck in a state of striving?

### Psalm 107:20

<sup>20</sup> He sent His word and healed them, And delivered *them* from their destructions.

Jesus sees her in this state, and He responds as only the compassion of Jesus can.

### Luke 10:41-42

<sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; <sup>42</sup> but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Hear the voice of Jesus speaking to you in the midst of your strife.

“Martha” is Jesus saying, “I know you and I have called you by name.”

“Martha, Martha” is Jesus saying, “I have something to say to you in this moment; it’s vital that you stop to hear it.”

“You are worried and bothered about so many things” is Jesus saying, “I see into your heart, into the absolute turmoil that is there- and I know it all.”

“Only one thing is necessary,” is Jesus saying, “Come unto me- you are so very tired inside, and the solution to your complexity is simply Me.”

“Mary has chosen the good part” is Jesus saying, “Won’t you receive your share of what is yours in Me, just as others are doing?”

“It will not be taken away from her,” is Jesus saying, “I will impart what you need, and what I give will be yours to keep.”