

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

Beautiful — Week 4 — Mary and Martha

We all desire to be loved unconditionally. We want to be understood patiently and accepted completely, not for what we do, but for who we are. In Jesus we find complete acceptance and unconditional love, but many times we allow perceived obligation and worry get in the way of a passionate relationship with Jesus.

Read Luke 10:38-42

- What is the difference in attitude between Mary and Martha?
- Do you think Jesus wants something from you? What is it?
- As a Christ follower, what are some things that you feel you should do whether you feel like it or not? Explain.
- What are some things that distract you from spending time with Jesus? How can saying “no” be a sign of spiritual maturity?
- What is your motivation for serving God and others? What should your motivation be?
- Read John 12:1-8. What consistent patterns can you see in the relationship between Mary and Jesus? What can we learn from Mary?

Could we be missing the most important thing? How many times do we get distracted by obligation instead of pursuing an intense, passionate relationship with Jesus? Are we more concerned with doing rather than being? What would happen if our motivation to serve sprang up from the faith we have in Jesus and the love we have for His people? This week, spend time with Jesus and listen. What does he want from you?

MONDAY

2Samuel 24:24 says, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” John 12:3 says, “Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair.” In view of God’s mercy on your life, have you offered yourself to Him as a spiritual act of worship? Are you afraid that it will cost you something?

TUESDAY

Read John 12:1-11. Mary’s act of worship followed the resurrection of her brother. What has God done in your life that is worthy of worship?

WEDNESDAY

Mark 14:8 says, "She did what she could." Are you waiting for God to do something for you, or are you asking God what you can do for Him? What are some small things that you can do to point others to Jesus?

THURSDAY

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 says, "But thanks be to God. Who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him." Are you spreading the knowledge of him or are you sitting on the shelf, unused?

FRIDAY

Luke 10:39 says, "She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said." Do you listen more than you talk? Perhaps Jesus is trying to say something to you but he can't get a word in.

SATURDAY

Luke 10:40 says, "But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made." Notice that the preparations had to be made. There are lots of things that need to be done. Someone has to do those things. God has called you to get those things done but don't be distracted by the task and forget who it is that you get to serve.

SUNDAY

Luke 10:42 says, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Choosing to say "no" to good things in favor of better things is a sign of maturity. What can you say "no" to in order to free up your time to work on relationships?