

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 10: 38-42**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 10, verses 38 to 42.

**Verse 38: "Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house."**

During the last six months of Jesus' earthly ministry, He traveled with His twelve disciples, and usually there were also some others following Him; therefore this group was actually not small. As they were traveling, they entered a village; this village was called Bethany, and Martha, Mary, and Lazarus all lived in this village. Luke immediately tells us that a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. Martha was the older sister, so she was likely the one in charge of the household; therefore she received Jesus, His disciples, and those traveling with them, all into her home. The work of hospitality is not easy, especially when a whole group suddenly comes into your house. Martha truly loved the Lord and was truly willing to offer herself and to serve; therefore she received this entire group into her home. We can imagine that she was busy going in and out, making many arrangements and doing many acts of service.

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

When Jesus came into their home, according to His usual habit, He did not merely come to be served; usually He would also begin to teach. Especially during this time when His twelve disciples followed Him every day, He seized every opportunity to

make the word of the kingdom of God clear to them so that they could understand it.

Verse 39 immediately turns to Martha's sister, whose name was Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His word. If you look at the English or the original language of this sentence, before the phrase "sat" there is the word "also"—also sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His word. Because in this passage only Martha is first mentioned, and then Mary is mentioned, and it says she also sat at Jesus' feet; in other words, at the beginning perhaps Martha was also sitting there and Mary was also sitting there, and when Martha was serving, perhaps Mary was also serving. In other words, doing many practical acts of service was not only Martha's part; Mary also did them. Sitting at His feet to hear the Lord's word was not only Mary's part; Martha also sat there listening. But the difference appears in verse 40.

**Verse 40a: "But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him,"**

Of course we must understand that when so many people suddenly come into your home, the matters to handle must be very complicated. Therefore Martha did many things; she had much serving to do, and when there are many things, inevitably the heart begins to be troubled. Especially when there are time-sensitive matters, such as when to eat and how to arrange the daily schedule; once these things increase, her heart became busy and troubled. After becoming troubled, she came to the Lord.

**Verse 40b: "And said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.'"**

What she saw was that there were many things that needed to be done that had not yet been done, and she was almost too busy to manage them all. Then she caught sight of her sister sitting at Jesus' feet, quietly listening to His word. Her own

heart was full of confusion and had no rest at all; suddenly a surge of emotion rose within her, and she immediately ran to Jesus and directly asked Him: my sister has left me to serve alone. She saw that there were so many things to do; she herself was busy going in and out, busy up and down, yet her sister was not helping. She directly asked Jesus: Do You not care? Please tell her to come and help me.

**Verses 41–42a: “And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed,’”**

Because of Martha’s complaint, Jesus had the opportunity to speak to Martha, and also to all of us, about a matter that is extremely important and most crucial in one’s whole life. He told Martha: you are worried and troubled about many things; it is true that there are many things, and when you think about many things, you become troubled; your heart becomes filled with these matters, and your heart cannot rest.

Then He said: but one thing is needed. We do many things without carefully considering whether those things are truly necessary. Everyone likes to live in a good and large house; but is that necessary? Everyone likes to drive a good car; but is that necessary? Everyone likes to attend a good school; but is that necessary? Everyone likes to have much savings in the bank; but is that necessary?

In our daily lives, if you carefully write down every single thing you do from the moment you open your eyes in the morning, and then at night when you go to sleep you look at the record of your whole day, you should ask yourself: were these things necessary? But Jesus clearly told Martha that only one thing is necessary. You may have done many things, but those are optional; yet only one thing is necessary. If you did not do this one necessary thing, then your whole day was busy in vain and your whole day was spent in vain. Jesus told Martha very directly: you are worried and troubled about many things, but only one thing is necessary; if you do not do this one necessary thing, then all the many things you do are in vain. So what is this one necessary thing?

**Verse 42b: “But Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”**

To sit at Jesus’ feet and simply listen to what He speaks, to be willing to follow the Lord with a focused heart, and to be willing to obey His word—this is the one necessary thing. Not only is it necessary, it is also the good part. In other words, when you hear Jesus’ word and that word becomes formed within you, becoming your life and becoming part of who you are, this is the good part, and no one can take it away from you. Because the word of Jesus becomes formed within you; His word becomes your life, becomes your supply, and becomes your very constitution.

Once you are one with the word of Jesus, these things cannot be taken away by anyone. What Jesus said to Martha is also what He says today to every saint who loves Him, who is willing to serve Him, and who has many responsibilities of service in the church. Serving in the church is certainly necessary; yet very often the burden of service causes us to be worried and troubled about many things. Whenever we fall into many outward tasks of service, we must return to this passage. Jesus Himself is speaking to each one of us: are you worried and troubled about many things? But you must know that only one thing is necessary: to sit before Me, hear My word, and obey My word. Let My word become your life, let My word become the supply of your life, and let My word become the constitution of your life. Only in this way, when you go out to serve, you will not be worried and troubled in your service, and you will not be full of complaints in your service; and only such service will truly help others.

I would also like to exhort every saint who bears many responsibilities of service in the church: if one day you discover that you have begun to complain, especially when you are extremely busy and you see other saints seemingly doing nothing and not coming to help you, and you begin to feel an accusing spirit in your heart, I urge you to immediately stop the work in your hands and stop your service. Come humbly before the Lord Jesus and ask Him personally to help you. I believe our Lord will say to you: you are worried and troubled about many things, but only one thing is necessary, and this is the good part. Rest before Me, read My word, and have intimate fellowship with Me.

This passage is actually extremely important for the whole life of every Christian. In the Bible there are only seven places where, when God calls a person, He uses a repeated name, like here where He says, “Martha! Martha!” These seven occasions all occur at the most crucial moment in that person’s life, and at a turning point in that person’s life, when God through the Holy Spirit recorded such words in Scripture. Which seven places are they?

The first is Abraham; when Abraham was offering Isaac, God said, “Abraham, Abraham!” The second is Jacob; when Jacob finally learned that Joseph was in Egypt and he was about to take his whole family of seventy persons down to Egypt, he did not dare to go and repeatedly offered sacrifices to the Lord, and the Lord said, “Jacob, Jacob!” The next is Moses; after forty years in the wilderness, when he saw the burning bush and went forward out of curiosity to look, the Lord said to him, “Moses, Moses!” The next is Samuel; when the boy Samuel was with Eli and at night heard God calling him, “Samuel, Samuel!” The fifth is the passage we have just read: “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled about many things.” The sixth is Peter; when Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be killed and that everyone would forsake Him, Peter immediately said to Jesus: even if everyone else forsakes You, I will never forsake You. Jesus then said to Peter, “Peter, Peter! Satan has asked to sift you as wheat, but when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” The last is the apostle Paul; on the road to Damascus, when he saw a great light, a voice said to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

These seven repeated or double calls occur at the most important moment in that person’s life, at a turning point in a person’s life. We are very familiar with Martha and Mary, and we know that Jesus loved Mary very much, but Jesus also loved Martha very much. He made such an important statement to Martha. Jesus valued Martha’s service very highly, but He did not want Martha to lose the good part in the midst of her service. In fact, today Jesus also says to every one of His children who is willing to serve Him: service is good, but do not become worried and troubled in your service, and do not produce complaints in your service. Learn that only one thing is necessary: simply come before Me, have intimate fellowship with Me, and listen to My word.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You for reminding us once again that only one thing is necessary. Thank You for giving me such time every day to read Your word together. May Your word truly shine upon us, so that when we do many things and when we begin to complain, may Your gracious word first come to us, telling us that only one thing is necessary: to hear Your word, to obey Your word, and to let Your word become our life and the supply of our life. Bless my life today so that it may be filled with Your word. I pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.