

July 17, 2016 “Are You Ever Distracted?” based on Luke 10:38-42

Different attitudes in married couples. Similar to story of Martha and Mary. “Lord, tell Mary to make herself useful! I need some help here!”

- Martha measuring her own performance against a lack of performance by Mary. It would be a better place if everyone were just like me, or, would it?
- Jesus notes Martha’s distraction. Not against a life of action, nor a criticism of housework or her work ethic
- Fault lies in attitude. Martha’s distracted by her resentment at seeing Mary listening to Jesus. “Distraction” means ‘drawn away’. Martha is distracted from her chores.
- Example from “The Brothers Karamazov”. A society woman wants to help others, but is distracted by need for praise and recognition.

How did Mary get it right? She recognized the Lord as host and herself as guest. Martha desired to be in control, Mary realized God’s presence and submitted to him being in control. This was contrary to tradition as women were not to ‘pay attention’ to wisdom and teachings. The writer Luke emphasized this about Jesus, he reached out to women.

- Jesus addresses Martha twice, calls to her in a loving, caring way
- God also calls to us, today, trying to get our attention so that the Spirit can lead us and guide us in the loving, caring ways of our faith,
- We continue to be guests, especially in our worship, where God hosts us as guests, overcoming our distractions so that we might be attentive to our ministry and mission.

May we overcome our own desires and distractions as we seek to be God’s people – here, now!