

GABC WED Night Small Group

Discussion Questions

May 16, 2018

1. Would you say you are a busy person?
 - a. How often do you say, "I'm just too busy?"
2. There is a study presented to congress in the 60's that claimed the explosion of new technology was going to lead to the average American spending 15 hours or less a week at work.
 - a. Do you believe technology has made our lives easier or harder?
3. Look at Luke 10:38. How does Luke show us that Martha was a successful woman who was capable of taking care of herself?
 - a. Knowing the difficulties women in that day had when it came to providing for themselves do you admire Martha?
 - b. What are some other things we see in this verse that show us her character?
 - i. Think about her response to Jesus' visit and her hospitality.
4. Verse 39 tells us that Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to her teaching.
 - a. As we talked about Sunday it would have been strange to see a woman sitting at the feet of a teacher instead of in the kitchen preparing the meal.
 - i. So we have a woman who owns her home and a woman who is allowed to sit at the feet of Jesus.
 1. What does this teach us about the value Jesus places on women?
5. Verse 40 describes the complaint that Martha had about Mary's actions.
 - a. If you didn't know Jesus' response to Martha would you think that she was correct in her complaint?
 - i. Who else is supposed to get things ready?
 - ii. Should we not be busy about our work?
 - iii. Do we not value those who are willing to go above and beyond in their responsibilities?
 - b. Consider the three ways Martha's attitude comes out.
 - i. She was distracted with much serving.
 1. Her service kept her from listening to the teaching of Jesus.
 - a. How can this be a problem for us?
 - ii. She said, "Lord, do you not care?"
 1. She questioned Jesus' concern for her well being.
 - a. How can our service come to the place where we question Jesus' care for us?
 - iii. She said, "my sister has left me to serve alone."
 1. She emphasized her own good deeds.
 - a. Why is it a problem when our focus is on making sure others know how much we do?
 2. She accused her sister of not doing what is right.
 - a. Who is the actual accuser of God's people?
 3. Can you see how this attitude can leave you isolated and alone while trying to serve the Lord?

- a. You think more highly of yourself than you should.
 - b. You think less of others than you should.
 - iv. She told Jesus to make Mary help her.
 - 1. She believed she knew better than Jesus did.
 - a. How can our focus on our service cause us to doubt the wisdom of Jesus?
6. Verses 41 and 42 show us how Jesus responds to us when we find ourselves consumed with busyness.
- a. Jesus tells Martha that she is worried and afraid of many different things.
 - i. We talked Sunday about the fear of criticism.
 - 1. How does this fear drive our busyness in service?
 - 2. How do we cause this fear in other people's lives?
 - ii. What are some of the other fears that Martha may have had?
 - 1. How can we make sure not to be driven by fear but love and gratitude for Christ?
 - b. Jesus tells Martha that one thing is needed and that Mary has it.
 - i. This one thing is a right relationship with Jesus.
 - 1. When we start with Him then our service flows out of our relationship with Jesus not our fears or pride.
7. How does knowing that we are accepted based on Jesus' work on the Cross not our work anywhere else change the way we serve Him?
8. Do you feel like you are supposed to do everything that needs done?
- a. Why is this such a bad attitude to have?
 - i. Who is the only one who can actually do everything?
 - b. What does this attitude say about your trust in God?
 - c. What does this attitude say about your view of other believers?
 - d. Do you think that maybe we prevent others from serving by insisting on doing everything?
9. Where do our feelings of busyness come from?
- a. Think back over the past week what activities took up the majority of your time?
 - b. How many of these things that caused you to be busy were what God wanted vs. what you decided to do?
 - c. How does busyness prevent you from loving others?
 - d. How does busyness prevent you from listening to God?
 - e. How does it prevent you from fully trusting Him?
10. What can the church do to relieve some of the pressure on those who fall into the trap Martha fell into?
11. One of the most dangerous aspects of this whole attitude is that Martha's intentions were good.
- a. How scary is it that what Martha saw as Service to the Lord was actually being used to cause her to Sin against Him?
 - b. What are some questions we can ask ourselves to make sure we don't have this attitude?