

The Unexpected Jesus: Disappointment with Others

March 18, 2012

LUKE 10:38-42

Vol. 2 Num. 12

Core Competency:

Peace- “I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.”

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

“Excuse me,” Martha whispered, “I need to get through here.” Squeezing through the crowded doorway, Martha makes another trip to the oven in the courtyard to check on the bread. With so many visitors in the house, she hopes three measures of flour makes enough food to feed Jesus and his followers. To run out after just having invited Him in would be embarrassing—for her and Jesus!

At first, Martha and her sister Mary accomplished together the duties of hosting guests in their home. But now, after Mary planted herself at the feet of Jesus, Martha now has to juggle the tasks alone even though she has repeatedly motioned to Mary for help.

Feeling overwhelmed and frustrated, Martha sneaks a glance back inside the house where Mary is still sitting among the disciples who are listening to Jesus. “Why is she ignoring me?” Martha fumes under her breath.

Exiting the main part of the house, Martha notices that several disciples are in need of sitting mats and a basin in which to wash up, but she is still busy with the food! Noisily dropping an armful of bowls onto a low table near the oven, she wheels around and heads back into the house mumbling “This is not the time for her just to sit there and leave all this responsibility to me!”

Martha demonstrates here the possible result of succumbing to a brutal taskmaster named “cultural expectations.” In New Testament times, the cultural expectations regarding the way visitors are hosted in a home were very extreme compared to our standards. In fact, their culture often placed adequate hospitality as a priority above even their own lives. The societal pressures Martha felt were real as are many of the ones we feel in our day.

Now, there is not anything necessarily wrong with observing cultural morays. Even Jesus remained sensitive to some of the norms found in his culture (Matt 17:27). But problems arise when we as believers fail to distinguish between our culture’s expectations and God’s. In addition, the subtlety of this sin is such that we risk eventually treating God and others around us like they are the problem!

This Week

This week, we intend to learn what Jesus identifies as the real source behind much of the disappointment we experience with God and others, and personally embrace His solution to this issue.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Read Luke 10:38-42

38 While they were traveling, He entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

39 She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what He said.

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't You care

that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand."

41 The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things,

42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

Notes

(v. 38) "a village"- This village was Bethany, the home of Lazarus (John 11:1).

(v. 38) "welcomed"- In Greek this verb is in the middle voice, denoting the enthusiasm with which Martha received Jesus, maybe even initiating the invitation.

(v. 40) "was distracted"- word here also means to draw around, to draw away, to be driven about mentally, to be distracted, to be over-occupied, too busy, about a thing.

(v. 40) "has left me"- has the idea of 'abandoning'; to leave off helping.

(v. 41) "worried"- is in active voice meaning that Martha's worry came from her own decision. It is an internally sourced harassments.

(v. 41) "upset"- is in passive voice meaning that Martha was subject to an externally sourced harassments.

②EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. What are some of the possible motives Martha may have had for welcoming Jesus into her home?
2. Notice Martha's response to Jesus in v. 40, what does she see as the problem here?
3. What does Jesus say is the real problem with Martha (v. 41)?
4. a) What do you see as the "one thing" that Jesus says is necessary?

b) What does Jesus imply is the value of this "one thing?" to Martha in her relationship with Him? With others?

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.