

“As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.” Luke 10:38 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 10:38-42

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

The bind and internal struggle of hospitality and personality. This caught my attention: Who invited Jesus? And yet the next observation is that it was also Martha that was distressed about making it right. “Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing.” Sound familiar? You want people in your home, but the setting and circumstances must be adequate (some would say perfect) for the guests. I think Martha was misunderstood a little. Of course being with Jesus was more important, but Martha (with extreme cultural pressure) wanted food and to host the event well. She needed help. She wanted it done right. She invited the situation on herself, then couldn’t deal with the dilemma it caused. What SHOULD Martha have done? 1. Not invited Jesus at all? 2. Hire a caterer? 3. Enlisted help from neighbors? 4. Just kept her mouth shut and not told Jesus about what was bothering her? What do you think?

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
This is such a great story of the difficulty of moving towards something that’s good and right, but not being able to figure out the how - not getting it right the first several hundred tries! The beauty of this is that Martha made the right choice to begin with, then got lost in her own difficulty to make it happen ALONE. A right idea can sometimes be thwarted because we wrongly try to do it alone. I’m sure Martha had other choices, but none of them meant doing it alone. Jesus exhortation or loving correction was meant to get Martha (and us) to reframe the entire event. Luke wants the reader to process the whole and understand how the mundane and the eternal are often in conflict because of a “human” perspective.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root