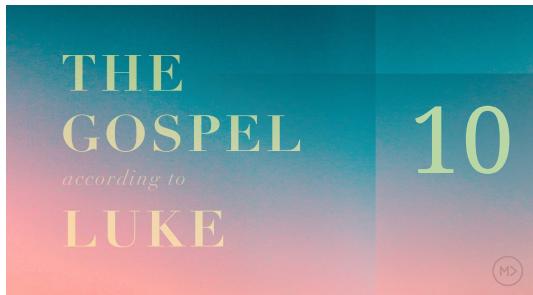


March 10-16, 2019



### A PRAYER

*Spirit, quiet our ever-racing minds and focus our hearts. Allow us to practice a posture of stillness with you amidst our busy lives. Let us not be so distracted by our acts of service that we miss what is most important. As heat rises and water boils over on a stove, would our service be a bubbling over of your Spirit moving within us. Would our “doing” be a response to time of deep reflection in your presence.*

## CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Starting in Luke 9:51, Jesus begins His journey towards Jerusalem and towards the cross. In Luke 10, we see three distinct stories shaping more clearly the call of discipleship on Jesus' followers. The first story is the sending of the 72 (10:1-24). The number of disciples sent out is significant because it represents and echoes all the peoples of the world told about in Genesis 10. The call of discipleship is a sending to all nations because Jesus is the King over His entire creation.

The second story is the story of the Good Samaritan (10:25-37). The beauty of this second story is not only is the call of discipleship to all nations but also the call of discipleship is to love even ethnic enemies (Jews and Samaritans). This second story illustrates the call of discipleship isn't just about having the right theology like the expert of the Law did but putting the kingdom into practice like the Good Samaritan.

The third story is about Mary and Martha (10:38-42). If you have been reading through Luke 10, you might be overwhelmed with the call of discipleship and the example of the Good Samaritan. However, the end of the Luke 10 reminds us of the importance of not being “anxious or worried” like Martha but to have attentive presence to our King like Mary.

## LISTEN

Get together with a spouse, friend, or your missional community and open to Luke 10:38-42. Close your eyes while one person reads the passage out loud. Read it at least twice to allow the first person reading the chance to close their eyes and hear the passage. While you listen, allow God's words to paint an image in your mind of what is happening.

**Contextual Clue:** At this time women were considered “unteachable” and it was unheard of for a woman to be sitting and learning from a rabbi. In a society that said this wasn’t Mary’s place, Jesus saw her, valued her, and gave her belonging.



## IMAGINE

Draw a picture of what Mary's heart looks like in this scene. Draw a picture of what Martha's heart looks like in this scene. Get creative — even if you have the artistic abilities of a toddler, it doesn't have to be perfect or even pretty.

Think about the ways Martha is described, "distracted," "worried," "upset."

Think about the ways Mary is described, "sitting," "listening."

## FEEL

Have you ever been the one in the kitchen while everyone else is resting and connecting? What about the one at work staying late while everyone else has gone home? Or the one at home with young children while everyone else is doing big things for God's people? Martha looked around and saw she was alone to prepare the meal for Jesus and she began to feel resentful.

I wonder how this passage would have differed if Martha had embraced the call God had for her without looking at her sister. I wonder what would change if Martha's service was not begrudgingly or out of obligation, but instead was an outpouring of joy and love that came from time spent in the presence of Jesus. How would our lives change if we embraced these things?

"I fear there is a great deal among us of religious activity of a very inferior sort, it concerns itself with the external of service, it worries itself with merely human efforts, and it attempts in its own strength to achieve divine results." Charles Spurgeon

As we live as a family of servants on mission, we can easily become distracted by the external expression of what we do. We can get caught up in the outward service that is so easily championed and applauded, losing sight of the foundation on which our service is built—our humble adoration and worship of our savior who did the ultimate act of service for us on the cross. Let us not become so busy with our *doing* for God that we miss out on *being* still in his presence.

## EMBODY / TABLE TALK

What would it look like for you to lay down your to-do lists and sit at the feet of Jesus this week? What if everyone around you is serving and doing and accomplishing? Could you take time every day this week for stillness and reflection with God? Jesus says Martha was worried about many things, but only one thing is needed—time in his presence.

Here are some questions to sit with during that time:



Take an honest look at your mission and what's propelling you. Is it a checklist item to *do* something for God? Is it out of rivalry or conceit? Or is it an outpouring of where the Spirit is leading and the work he is doing in your heart?

What are the ways you are reflecting with Jesus? Are you uncomfortable with stillness in the Lord's presence? If so, why?

Pray and ask God to affirm the calling he has for you and to remind you that he has a place for *you*.

**“Discipleship is a balanced combination of two things: service and reflection.”<sup>1</sup>**

What has this balance looked like in your life the past few days? Weeks? Months?

*Created by Keira Kielmeyer*

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<sup>1</sup> Gospel of Luke, NIV Application Commentary

