














The  and  of Worship

- Here we are (snctry/outdrs/camp). What come do? See frnds; hear nice music; routine; check out this Luth ch? Maybe. But what really doing here; main purp? Come to wrshp: Lord in ch/wrshp service. Why call it that, service? Bec prs/muscns serve us? Bec at ch service HC served? Here, serve oa? Suppose all true to certain extent. But maybe call it service bec here we serve God, is this our service to him. Or, perhaps oppst: this where God serves us, and wrshp service is actly his service to all us?
- Reason call it wrshp “service” is really a combntn of last 2 points – we serve God, and he serves us. In fact, today I want illstrt that 2-fold aspect Xian wrshp by talking re the  &  of wrshp, how we serve God, and how he serves us. And today, as we hear again familiar acct of J in home M&M, J tchs us that when it comes to the  &  of wrshp, one of those two is fundmntly more imp than other.
- So here we have these 2 siss who not only bels/J, also close frnds/J. Also have bro Laz, not mentnd here. But you might remem fr Gos/Jn: when bro Laz died, J came visit M&M, then raised Laz fr dead. J is very close to this fam. So on one occsn, siss invite him over for dinner. And as this dinner being prepd, we have very good exmpl of both the  &  of wrshp.
- Start w/Martha. **Vs. 38c**; sure that invlvd cleaning thngs up, getting house ready – we all do that when guests come over. Then there’s meal prep; and remem: she didn’t have running wtr, gas stove, Nesco, Crockpot, fridge; making fancy 4-course meal back then was consdrbly more diffclt & took lot more time. Finly, there’s guest; this isn’t just chkn nugs for Kndgrtn playdate; this: meal prepd w/care/love for Lord. Evthng Martha does: , service to God. She: motvtd by Gos, by God’s love for her; & she wants return her love to Lord by serving him. And this how can do it: can make meal to honor her Lord, Sav, frnd, God. So it’s undrstndbl, I think, that gets a little annoyed at sis; Mary’s not doing anythng. **Vs. 40b**. If we’re going have this nice meal, she’s got be part of kitchen staff. And I think this deeper than just sis drama (and bel me, I know what that’s like: I have 2 dghtrs). I think Martha is thinking: Mary, this is J we’re cooking for; don’t you want things be nice for J?
- So, one imp aspect/wrshp: , our service to God. Paul in Roms: **“Therefore, I urge you, bros/siss, in view/God’s mercy”** (IOW, bec of God’s love for you) **“to offer your bodies as a living sacrfc, holy & pleasing to God – this is your true & proper wrshp” (12:1)**. That means: when we obey God’s coms, follow his will, give him our best, praise his name, serve our nghbr, thank him for his grace, glorify him in our lives – all that is service to God. It’s  wrshp; and that’s exactly what Martha is doing here: serving J.
- But, today J teaches a very imp les, to Martha & all us: that when it comes to the  &  of wrshp, for as imp as  is, fundmntly more imp: , J serving us. Les: Mary **vs. 39b**. I can just imagine J the rabbi, master tchr, sharing wisdom/God, speaking truths re kngdm/God. And Mary is eating it up; hanging onto ev wrd; can’t get enough; she’s lost in Gos; and in that moment nothing else matters. It’s not like she didn’t want help sis or didn’t care re meal. But she just so focused on wrds/J that she was like an empty vessel, and J was pouring into her soul, filling her soul, w/pure Gos.
- And when Martha complains re it, J doesn’t rebuke her harshly. But does take advntg of this tchbl moment and, w/charming graciousness: **vs. 41-42**. The one thing needed: wrd. Evthng else in this wrld, imp though may be, still pales in comprsn to GW. J once: **“Man shall not live on bread alone but on ev wrd that comes fr mth/God” (Mt 4:4)**. In his wrd God gives self to us & opens hrt to us. Shows us his love, grace, forgvnss/sins, prom/hvn. Reveals Gos/slvtn thru Son JC – J’s perfc/sinlss life in place our sinful life; J’s sacrfc dth/cross in payment our sins; J’s res fr dead in advance of our res to etnl life. In his wrd God proclaims how he singlhnddly rescued us fr Stn’s kngdm/drknss and, despite our many failures, has loved us w/an evrlstng & uncndtnl love. Listen: you don’t get that anywhere else, except in GW. So when Mary is **vs. 39b**, and Martha gets upset re that, J says **vs. 42b**.

- So here's point: when it comes to ↑ & ↓ of wrshp, both imp. But fundmntly more imp is ↓; J says it's "better." ↓ service fr God to us must come 1st & have predmnc in our lives before any ↑ service to God can take place. Said diff way, best way wrshp J: sit at ft, listen wrd, just like Mary did! That: lesson for today! J wants us to hear, study, take in, meditate on, receive, absorb, love his wrd!
- We're not always very good at that, are we? Often more like Martha. Vs. 40a. "Distrctd;" means Martha probly wanted be listening to J, but so many other things were competing for her attn. Same true for us: we have so many things (good!) we want do, but they often pull us away fr what's most imp: sitting at ft/J, listening to wrd. And so J comes & says: "Martha, Martha" ("Kirk;" insert your name), vs. 41b-42a. And then we realize, repent, refocus, remem: very wrd we're guilty of neglctng is same wrd that assures us that God forgives us even for mispriortzng wrldly concerns over his wrd. So now, as God's forgvn chldrn, J wants us see that there's absoltly nothing more pleasing to him than when we spend quality time listening to him in faith!
- We do that in #/ways. We listen to J's wrd at ch. It is/remains very imp that we all reglrly, faithflly come to ch, bec at ch we hear GW & listen to J. And I invite you think re this: in our Luth wrshp service, there's always a mix of both ↑ & ↓ service. Our prayers, singing, offerings – that's all ↑ service to God. But most of wrshp service: ↓ service fr God to us; he serves us in readings, sermon, sacrmnts, absltm. So we listen J at ch; also: in BC/SS; planning start up Sun after Labor Day. Our kids get listen J in Luth school; I'm super excited re start of upcoming schl yr. You realize that in our SJ Luth school, our kids get sit ft/J & hear GW ev single day! And, listen J in homes, thru fam devtns and time spent prvly in wrd. Nothing is more imp than sitting at J's ft, listening his wrd.
- J self: vs. 42b. Litrly in orig lang: "better portion." What I love re this: J is delibrly using play/wrds. Martha's making portions/food, all concerned re these portions/food. So J tells her: here's the better portion, better entrée, best food, one thing needed. Which makes you realize: there really were two meals served that day: one served to J (↑), and one served by J (↓). Guest became host; and this host wants us to be his guests. It's very apprprt for us to live lives of Gos-motvtd service to J (↑). But it's even more imp for us to remem: "Son/Man did not come be served but serve" (Mt 20:28) – serve us w/salvtn & give us his wrd (↓). The most imp thing we can give J in return: our attn. The most imp way for us to worship J: listen to him & receive fr him what he so dearly desires to give us: Gos in his wrd. So whether we're at ch for the wrshp service, or we're serving Lord in our lives, let's above all else enjoy the meal J serves us, the better portion, the one thing needed.



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Luke 10:38-42 (NIV 1984)

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."