

RELAXING WITH JESUS

Luke Series

Luke 10:38-42

DAY 1: Read Luke 10:38-42 and Luke 6:45

All throughout the gospels we see that when Jesus shows up, something always happens. In the story of Martha and Mary, everything that happened occurred because Jesus was *present*. And when Jesus is present, the true condition of our heart tends to reveal itself. #Yikes! While this might be an ugly and even scary thing, let me assure you that it is nothing less than God's grace at work in your life. Believe or not, there are still areas of your heart and mine that Jesus wants to change and transform, and it is His rescuing grace that allows those ugly, sinful things to be revealed. How aware are you of the condition of your heart? Take a moment and ask God to allow you to see the areas of your heart that still need His rescuing and transforming grace. You can trust Him. He loves you deeply and wants you to be free.

DAY 2: Read Luke 10:38-39 and Isaiah 29:13

The story in Luke demonstrates two vastly different postures and attitudes towards loving God. Martha opened up her home, but Mary opened up her heart. Here's the truth: God isn't interested in *what you do* for Him as much as He's interested in just *you*. God's desire has never been for mere compliance and duty. He wants our hearts. We're all tempted to believe the lie that God's love and favor on us is proportionate to our progress and productivity. But the truth is, God's love for us has nothing to do with our work, effort, or service. It has everything to do with the work, effort, and service of Jesus on our behalf. So today, put away your spiritual checklist. Get off *your* feet (your work for God) and rest at *His* feet (His work for you).

DAY 3: Genesis 1:26-31

The world we live in tells us in a thousand different ways that "me + accomplishment = acceptance" or that "me + achievement = approval." The underlying belief is that *doing* precedes *being*. But this is a lie. The Bible presents a radically different reality. Notice the order of events in the creation story. The first man and woman were created, but not until the 6th day, after all the hard work had already been done! Then God said everything He made was "very good." It was *God's work* that created us; it is *His work* that saves us, and it is *His word* that defines us. Today, rest in the fact that if you are in Christ, God sees you and calls you "very good." Allow your doing to flow from that amazing truth.

DAY 4: Read Luke 10:40 & John 6:28-29

One of the ever-present temptations that exist for Christians is to substitute religion for the gospel. Religion can be defined as human activity done in an attempt to please God. The gospel, however, is the message that God is already infinitely pleased with us because of what Jesus accomplished. When Jesus was asked what was "the work" God required, what was His response? Let me ask you: what do you find yourself focusing on more: your *wavering* devotion to God or His *unwavering* devotion to you?

DAY 5: Read Luke 10:41-42

One of the more subtle things I love about this story is found in Jesus' response to Martha. Martha completely bypasses going to Mary to ask for help. Instead, she goes directly to Jesus and complains publicly about Mary not helping her. Ouch! If I were Mary, I'd feel embarrassed and even feel like I needed to defend myself. But Jesus doesn't give her that chance. He speaks up for Mary, and in doing so He vindicates her in the presence of her accuser. Mary doesn't need to defend herself. Jesus does that for her. What a sweet picture of the gospel.

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