

MARTHA MODE AND MARY MODE

(Luke 10: 38-42)

Intro: Sometimes we are in Martha mode.
-Even we guys.

Sometimes we are in Mary mode.
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I. Martha Mode.

A. It's OK To Be In Martha Mode Some Of the Time.

1. Martha was not a bad person.
 - a. Last week we had the story of the Good Samaritan.
 - Luke 10:25-37.
 - Martha was loving her neighbor.
 - #By being a good hostess.
 - #That's a good thing, right?
 - b. In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew-Mark-Luke).
 - Peter was the one who made that marvelous confession of faith.
 - #"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
 - *Matthew 16:16.
 - #"You are the Christ."
 - *Mark 8:29.
 - #"The Christ of God."
 - *Luke 9:20.
 - c. In John's gospel.
 - Martha makes the marvelous confession of faith.
 - #"I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God."
 - *John 11:27.
 - d. Martha was not a bad person.
2. We're not necessarily bad people, either, when we are in Martha mode.
 - a. Couple of weeks ago was a very rainy week.
 - Storage room off of Jordan Hall flooded three different times.
 - #One afternoon I shifted into Martha mode.
 - *During the height of a rain storm.
 - +I interrupted my study of Acts.
 - +I camped out in the storage room.
 - =For 20-30 minutes.
 - =To figure out where the water was coming from.

- *My assessment.
 - +Water isn't coming through the roof.
 - =Nothing was wet above the floor.
 - +Water is coming through:
 - =Wall.
 - =Floor.
 - =Seam where the wall meets the floor.
- Sometimes it's ok to be in Martha mode.
- b. This past week we had a break-in here at church.
 - Teenage runaway, we think.
 - #Broke a window.
 - #Looking for a cool place to crash for a few hours.
 - *Youth room.
 - *With the AC turned down to 56°.
 - #Helped herself to:
 - *Kool-Aid from the refrigerator in the kitchen.
 - *Maybe a donut from the freezer?
 - #Used the phone to call her dad in Louisiana.
 - *Which is how we think we know who it was.
 - Mary Faulkner and I shifted into Martha mode the next morning.
 - #Checking the building to see if anything was missing.
 - *We don't think so.
 - #Calling the police.
 - #Talking with the father in Louisiana.
 - #Asking Jim Harris to shift into Martha mode.
 - *To get the broken window fixed.
 - Sometimes it's ok to be in Martha mode.
- c. Another day I called St. John's Hospital.
 - To see if Norma Dreyer was still in Room 546.
 - #I often call the hospitals.
 - *To double-check on folks.
 - +Before I make a hospital run.
 - #Hospital told me.
 - *Not only was Norma not a patient.
 - *They had no record she had ever been there.
 - +I knew that couldn't be right.
 - I shifted into Martha mode.
 - #I called Ed at home.
 - *Asked if Norma had been discharged.
 - #He told me:
 - *"She'd better be there."
 - *"She was there this morning."
 - *"She's not here."
 - Sometimes it's ok to be in Martha mode.

- d. Month or so ago I got a new pair of glasses.
- Within the first week.
 - #One of the lenses popped out of the frame.
 - *While my glasses were lying on my desk.
 - #I took them back to have the lens put back in.
 - That night.
 - #I got a stress fracture in that lens.
 - *I took them back yet again.
 - #Optical company ordered me a new lens.
 - Last week.
 - #I got the new lens.
 - *Within 2-3 hours.
 - +I heard something pop.
 - +The new lens has a stress fracture.
 - Next day.
 - #I took my glasses back yet again.
 - *Now they're going to make me polycarbonate lenses.
 - +Guaranteed not to crack or break.
 - I've been in Martha mode with these glasses.
 - #Almost since the day I got them.
 - Sometimes it's ok to be in Martha mode.
- e. One evening I called my dad.
- To see how he was doing.
 - #He was in a panic because he couldn't get a hold of my sister.
 - *She lives 5 miles away from him.
 - +But she's in a different area code.
 - =My dad claimed he had tried to call.
 - Using the "1" before the area code.
 - Not using the "1" before the area code.
 - *He was convinced there was something wrong with the phone.
 - +I think I told you my dad was still pretty "with it."
 - =That's not totally true anymore.
 - #My sister Janet has had the major responsibility.
 - *Dealing with his declining health.
 - +Since she lives so close.
 - #I thought maybe there was something I could do.
 - *From 800 miles away.
 - #I said:
 - *"Dad, is there anything in particular that you need?"
 - #He said to me rather matter-of-factly.
 - *"Yes."
 - *"I need to die."

#I said to him rather matter-of-factly.
 * "Dad, I understand what you're saying."
 * "But you don't need Janet right this moment,"
 + "To help you do that, do you?"
 #He laughed.
 -My dad has been in Martha mode for several weeks.
 #He knows:
 *His body is failing him more and more.
 *His mental faculties are beginning to slip.
 #Because he's in Martha mode.
 *Some of the rest of us are in Martha mode.
 -Sometimes it's ok to be in Martha mode.

B. The Problem Is That We Sometimes Get Stuck In Martha Mode.

1. Martha's problem.

- a. Not that she was trying to be a good hostess.
- b. She was so pre-occupied with:
 - Hors d'oeuvres.
 - Appetizers.
- c. She was neglecting the main course.
 - Jesus.
 - Jesus' message.

2. Getting stuck in Martha mode.

- a. Not good for our little pea brains.
 - One day I was going to the Red Cross to give blood.
 #I was distracted by so many things.
 *I made a wrong turn.
 #In trying to correct for my error.
 *I made another wrong turn.
 #Two wrongs did not make it right.
 - Next day I was going to see Norma Dreyer at St. John's.
 #I was distracted by so many things.
 *I pushed the button on the elevator for her floor.
 #We got to that floor.
 *Door opened.
 *Door closed.
 +I didn't get off.
 +I kept right on riding.
 - Just so you know.
 #I do have some vacation planned for next month.
 *Including going to see my dad.
 - It's not good to get stuck in Martha mode.

- b. Not good for our souls.
 - Going.
 - Giving.
 - Doing.
 - Serving.
 - #All good things.
 - *But not if we aren't feeding our souls.
 - +Serving without worship.
 - +Teaching without Bible study.
 - =Can leave us:
 - Spiritually unfed.
 - Spiritually malnourished.

II. Mary Mode.

- A. Mary Feasted On The Main Course.
 - 1. If that's all she ever did, we might find fault with her.
 - a. Just as:
 - Serving without worship.
 - Teaching without Bible study.
 - #Not healthy.
 - b. Neither is:
 - Worship without serving.
 - Bible study without teaching.
 - 2. To be in Mary mode means:
 - a. Sit at the feet of Jesus.
 - b. Listen to what Jesus is saying to us.
 - 3. Today we are commissioning our Dream Team.
 - a. Leaders for our process of congregational renewal.
 - H.I. Aston.
 - Avis Erickson.
 - Mary Peterson.
 - Myself.
 - b. Dream Team is inviting you to join us in 100 Days of Prayer.
 - Starting today.
 - To pray:
 - #For this congregation.
 - #For our congregational leaders.
 - #For our mission and ministry.
 - #For our vision for the future.

- 100 Days of Prayer.
 - #Not so that you can count them down.
 - *Say at the end:
 - + "We're done."
 - + "I'm glad we don't have to do that anymore."
 - #But so that it becomes a part of your spiritual discipline.
- To help you remember.
 - #We'll be passing out prayer dots.
 - *You can put them on:
 - +Your watch.
 - +Your bedside clock.
 - +Your rearview mirror.
 - +Your computer screen.
 - +Your cell phone.
 - +Your medicine bottles.
 - *Anywhere that you will see them regularly.
 - +To remind yourself to shift into Mary mode.
 - =To stop.
 - =To take time out.
 - =To read your Bible.
 - =To pray.
 - =To listen for the voice of God.
 - =To feast on the main dish.

B. To Feast On The Main Dish Is To Remember Who Is The True Host.

1. Martha thought:
 - a. She was the hostess.
 - b. Jesus was the guest.
 - She had it backwards.
2. Jesus was the host.
 - a. On his way to Jerusalem.
 - To accomplish the one thing needful.
 - To serve himself up as the main course.
 - #Suffering.
 - #Dying.
 - #Rising.
 - To feed the world:
 - #Not with:
 - *Hors d'oeuvres.
 - *Appetizers.
 - #But with the main dish.
 - *Casserole:
 - +Love. +Faith.
 - +Mercy. +Forgiveness.

- b. Mary was the guest.
 - Martha, too.
 - #If she had taken the time to sit down.
 - Sitting at the feet of Jesus.
 - #Being fed by the master chef.
 - *Not:
 - +Julia Childs.
 - +Martha Stewart.
 - *But by Jesus himself.
- 3. Jesus is still the host.
 - a. Having been to Jerusalem.
 - To the cross.
 - To the grave.
 - b. But alive again.
 - On Easter morning.
 - On this morning.
 - #Inviting us:
 - *To shift into Mary mode.
 - *To sit at his feet.
 - +To listen to the Word.
 - *To come to the table.
 - +To be fed with Christ's own body and blood.
 - +To feast on the main dish.

Concl: I won't con myself into thinking:
 -You will never shift back into Martha mode.
 -I won't shift into Martha mode.

But when you find yourself getting stuck in Martha mode.
 -Look at your watch.
 -Look at your prayer dot.
 #It will be time to shift into Mary mode.
 *May it be a merry Mary mode.