**3 – Hearing of Mary**

*Luke 10:38-42; Mark 14:3-9*

***The lesson considers less of the actual hearing of Mary, and more of the attitude, or priorities that lead to her deciding to hear. Her desire to hear Jesus outweighed all else at the time. Mary placed a value upon hearing Jesus.***

**Context – Concepts of discipleship.**

* **9:23-27 –** Jesus gives a concise, yet effective description of discipleship.
  + **Self-denial** – self-denial is not a complete forgetting of self. Rather, it is a recognition of self in your proper place. It suggests dependence on someone greater (Jesus) rather than self.
    - **Denying self in light of discipleship actually shows a greater consciousness of self. You have to focus on your own responsibilities as a disciple, and those responsibilities have to do with fully committing to serving Christ.**
  + **Take up cross** – this phrase speaks of sacrificial living. When Jesus took up His cross He was giving His life in sacrificial service.
    - **A Christian is expected to imitate Who he is following. Jesus sacrificed His life by dying on the cross for us. We sacrifice our life by devoting it fully to His service as we live for Him (cf. Romans 12:1-2).**
  + **Follow Christ** – Jesus is not suggesting they necessarily physically follow Him. If this were so we would not be able to be disciples. Rather, He is implying His authority to lead, and our need to follow.
    - **This implies the importance of listening to His teaching, and acting upon it.**
  + ***These concepts of discipleship expound upon the importance of arranging priorities. What is the pinnacle of our existence? Spiritual or physical (cf. Romans 8:5-8)?***
* **9:57-62** – Jesus does not condemn the inherent doing of these things. However, He emphasizes the need to place following Him above any other thing.
  + ***A disciple must set priorities and be vigilant to recognize them, lest he shirk the greater ones for the less significant ones.***

**Luke 10:38-42**

* Jesus is with His disciples – ***“Now it happened as THEY went.”***
  + The text only says that “He,” i.e. Jesus, entered Martha’s house.
  + Some commentators suggest that only Jesus entered, and His disciples continued to Jerusalem. This may be so, but the context could imply they were with Him.
* ***“Mary, who ALSO sat at Jesus’ feet”*** – this implies some others were already listening to Him, and she joined.
  + Some translations do not have “also.” Likely a difference in manuscripts.
* It seems as though the disciples were with Jesus in the house, and He was teaching them at the time.
  + They, being His disciples, took every opportunity to “sit at His feet.”
  + Mary, recognizing Him as her Lord, saw an opportunity and did the same.
* ***“Sat at Jesus’ feet”***
  + Sitting at the feet of another is a figurative expression denoting the humble place of a student in the midst of his teacher.
  + **While it can be taken literally – she actually sat down at Jesus feet, looked up to Him, and listened intently – it also speaks figuratively of humble submission to and dependence on a teacher.**
* **Martha’s distraction.**
  + Martha’s serving was a commendable act. She was doing as she normally should **(cf. Titus 2:5; Proverbs 31:10-31)**.
  + ***However, as with anything it has a place in life, and that place may be lesser than that of something else. In this case she elevated her domestic duties above her spiritual needs.***
  + She attempted to get the Lord to reprove her sister, but He gave her a different response.
    - Her worry was neglecting her need **(v. 41**) – **Matthew 6:33**
      * Martha was “distracted/cumbered” – *perispaō* – to drag all around; draw away; i.e. to be over-occupied, too busy, about a thing.
        + Her duties had importance, but not precedence over being taught by Son of God.
        + Physical things that are not in and of themselves sinful can still be harmful if we allow them to “over-occupy” ourselves (**cf. Hebrews 12:1-2**).
* **Mary’s choice.**
  + (**v. 42**) – Jesus shows the order of priorities in His commendation of Mary’s actions.
  + ***“one thing is needed”*** – Jesus knows the necessities of physical life. However, the necessities of spiritual life far outweigh the physical (cf. Matthew 6:33).
  + ***“Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”*** – the good part is that which is eternal **(cf. Matthew 6:33**).
    - **Her desire was for something that lasts forever, and will cause her to live forever (cf. 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; 1 John 2:17).**

**Anointing Jesus – Mark 14:3-9** *(Shown to be Mary in John 12)*

* **This account of Mary’s actions also speak to her mindset that cause her to sit at Jesus’ feet and hear His word.**
* **She prioritized the things of Christ far above any else, and it showed in her choices.**
* Alabaster flask – stone flask.
  + She broke it – possibly a long neck on the flask broken to poor; or just broke the seal.
* This is a contrast between Judas’ mindset and Mary’s.
  + Judas was worried about the things of the world (in reality he was a thief, hypocrite, and it showed).
  + **Mary wanted to show her Lord her love for Him while she had opportunity.**
    - This was a great sign of obeisance!
* Anointing Jesus body for burial was not likely her purpose, yet Jesus points to His burial using this example.
* Her actions are taught in the word! She is a great example of maintaining spiritual emphasis!