

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Gifted - Part 1 Hunger to Serve

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### Introduction

As we intentionally serve God, we tend to become task-oriented and may lose sight of the basis of service, which is our personal devotion to Jesus. The story of Mary and Martha reflects this dichotomy. Although Martha is often regarded as having the lesser position, lessons may be gleaned from both women. As we grow in service to the Lord, what can we learn from each of these women of faith?

**Read** Luke 10:38-42

### Discuss

1. Do you regard yourself more as task/goal oriented or people/reflection orientated? How does that affect the way you do things in work, family and church life?
2. What happens when one is primarily task/goal oriented (like Martha)? What happens when one is primarily people/reflection oriented (like Mary)? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach?
3. What does 'sitting at the Lord's feet' mean to you? Refer to Isaiah 40:31, Psalms 37:4-7, Psalms 46:10.
4. According to the text, what do you think Mary was intentionally doing when she was 'sitting at the feet of Jesus'? Why was it said that she had 'chosen what is better'?
5. Jesus did not correct Martha about her service. According to text, what specifically did Jesus correct Martha about? What lessons can we learn from this, in terms of attitudes and priorities?

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6. What happens when someone assumes the position of Mary on a prolonged basis and does not rise up to serve as Martha did? What could happen to their gifts and calling? Consider the Parable of the Talents.
7. How did Jesus model both action and reflection? See Luke 5:15-16, Mark 1:35-37. While this practice was essential, what was His primary purpose according to Mark 10:45?

### **Respond**

We can learn from both Martha and Mary's approach. Being like Mary (worshipful) enables us to be like Martha (effective in service) on a sustained basis.

Ephesians 2:10 states, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do." In order to fulfil this effectively and sustainably, we need to balance service and worship. The greater the service, the more time alone with God is required.

Share one adjustment you need to make today – do you need to serve more like Martha, or do you need to wait on God more like Mary?