Discussion Questions

Luke 10:38-42 | Martha Martha

1. What do we learn about Martha in this passage? How would you describe her relationship with Jesus?
2. The word Luke uses for Martha's serving in verse 40 is diakonia, the same word used elsewhere for serious religious ministry. How does knowing that change how you read her complaint?
3. Martha addresses Jesus rather than Mary in verse 40. What does that tell you about where her frustration is actually directed?
4. Jesus says Martha is worried and troubled about many things. She only named one thing. What do you think the many things are?
5. Look at the two words Jesus uses for Martha's condition. Worried carries the sense of being pulled in multiple directions. Troubled carries the sense of being tossed by waves. What does it tell you about Jesus that he names her interior world rather than addressing her practical complaint?
6. Describe what Mary is doing. What does her posture suggest? How is it a scandal? How would you describe her relationship with Jesus?
7. Jesus says one thing is necessary and that Mary has chosen the good portion. What does Jesus mean by this?
8. The sermon described the busyness ethic as a trellis, a structure we build our lives upon that makes it very hard to grow in a different direction. Where do you see that structure operating in your own life, and what are the righteous pegs that make it hard to question?
9. The sermon suggested Martha's devotion had quietly become a transaction. What would it look like for your own service or ministry to function that way without you realising it?
10. What is the difference between serving Jesus and receiving from Jesus? Is it possible to be doing one while missing the other?
11. Jesus says Mary's choice will not be taken away. Martha had specifically asked him to take it away. What is the significance of Jesus' refusal?
12. How is this passage challenging to you? How might God be calling you to respond to this passage?