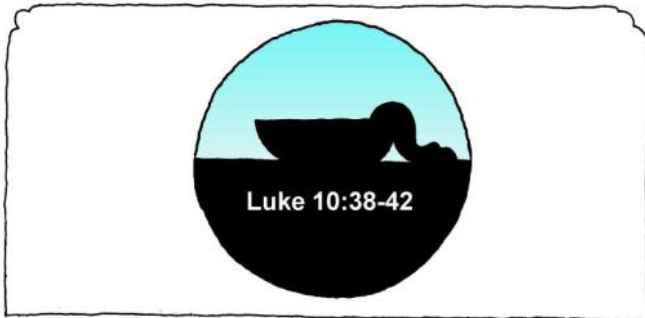


MARTHA and Mary

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The story about Martha and Mary remind us that the work we do for God should be a joy and not a chore. We can choose to do it cheerfully and willingly, but don't forget to spend time with Jesus.



Jesus loved staying at Martha's home in Bethany, with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus. It was a place where Jesus could really relax and rest, away from the crowds of people who followed Him.



Martha loved cooking. As soon as Jesus arrived she began to prepare a delicious meal for Him and his friends. There was a lot to do and she would need Mary's help, so Martha cheerfully set to work.



She hurried back and forth to the table with plates of food, while still making sure that nothing was burning on the stove, or in the oven. But where was Mary? It wasn't fair that she had to do all the work herself!



Mary was listening to Jesus talk about God's love and His wonderful plan for people everywhere. He was an inspiring teacher. Mary didn't want to miss a single word. But, Martha was getting very annoyed!



"Jesus," Martha said, "Tell Mary not to be so selfish and lazy and make her come and help me. I can't manage so much work by myself." Jesus loved Martha and He spoke to her gently.



"Martha, Martha, when you serve me, it is your gift to me. Do it because you really want to, with a loving heart and a smile on your face. It is more important that Mary spends time with me. Let her stay."



Martha listened to the wise words Jesus said and went back to her work with a new attitude about what she was doing, who it was for and how much she and Mary loved their friend Jesus.