

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON 29 October 2023

## “Blessed are the Balanced”

### Sermon – Luke 10 v38-42

#### Luke 10 v38-42 (English Standard Version)

*38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."*

These questions relate to the sermon delivered at all the morning services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023. **Feel free to choose questions as appropriate for your group – they are there to facilitate good discussion / reflection. Do not feel you must go through them all.**

**(1) Opening reflection / discussion.**

- (a) Thinking about your life today, how balanced would you say it is between your home / family; work; leisure; time with the Lord; and serving the Lord?
- (b) What determines the proportion each component of your life gets? To what extent do you reflect on this balance and seek to change it?

**(2) Welcoming Jesus. Martha welcomed Jesus into her home (v38).**

- (a) What was the cultural context for this?
- (b) What does it mean for you to welcome Jesus into your life?
- (c) Are there any no-go areas for Jesus (e.g. areas you don't want Him to see; ways you compartmentalise your life so that He is welcome in some but excluded from others)?

**(3) Listening to Jesus. Once Jesus had been welcomed in, Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching (v39). She had a hunger to feast on His words.**

- (a) How do you 'listen' to Jesus' teaching? How important is it to you? How frequently do you do it?
- (b) To what extent and how do you seek out to filter out competing voices which might lead you away from Jesus' teaching?

**(4) Studying the Bible. Our primary source today for sitting at Jesus' feet and learning from Him is the Bible.**

- (a) What do you consider to be the purpose of your studying the Bible?
- (b) How do you go about studying the Bible? To what extent do you treat it as an academic Vs a transformational exercise?
- (c) To what extent do you look at other sources of Christian teaching (e.g. daily devotionals; Bible commentaries; Christian speakers / blogs; conferences etc)? And to what extent do these predominate over the Bible?

**(5) Being distracted. Martha is distracted by the call of hospitality and complains (v40).**

(a) To what extent are you distracted from spending time with Jesus, learning from Him, because you are too busy doing other things for Jesus?

(b) What effect does this have on your relationship with Jesus and others?

(6) **Staying balanced – Jesus’ response.** Jesus understands Martha’s situation but is quite firm in his response to her (v41-42).

(a) How do you understand Jesus’ response to Martha?

(7) **Staying balanced - Us.** Over his life, Jesus struck a balance between spending time with His Father and serving His Father.

(a) What can we learn from how Jesus led a balanced life?

(b) What changes might you make to lead a more spiritually balanced life so that you strike the right balance between being at Jesus’ feet learning from Him and serving Him ... and still have time for all your other commitments (family, day job)?