

Doing and Being

Introduction

This week we're focusing on two famous stories from Luke's Gospel: the parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of Mary and Martha. Each story illuminates two aspects of discipleship—the "doing" and the "being". Consider the ways that Luke shines the spotlight on people most often found in the background of first century living to highlights the two sides of the faithful living.

Discussion Questions

1. What comments caught your attention in the video? What would you say about it?
2. Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? What was the outcome?
3. This is one of Jesus' most famous parables. Why do you think it is so popular that even non-Christians use it as a basis for being compassionate?
4. Why does Jesus answer the lawyer's question ("and who is my neighbor?") with a story?
5. Given the long-standing, heated strife between Jews and Samaritans, what's unusual about the ending in this story?
6. According to Jesus, being a neighbor means being ready to show mercy to someone in need, no matter who they are. How does this encourage or challenge your journey of faith?
7. In your own life, do you tend to be more a Mary or a Martha? Why?
8. What is the source of Martha's frustration? Why is Mary being honored by Jesus? Is there something wrong with what Martha is doing?
9. So, Jesus uses a Samaritan and two women as the key persons in these two passages. Why is it important that those who are most often excluded or cast in the background are front and center in these passages? What does it say about Jesus' view of people? What does it say about our view of the people around us?
10. As you consider these two passages, describe what it means to be a follower of Jesus. How may these two stories guide our journey of discipleship? How best may we "do" and "be" as the sisters and brothers of Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for familiar stories. Thank you for these stories that have met us time and time again in our lives. At each age, we learned something. At each age, you gave us a fresh insight in how to live and in how to follow you. May such stories never become so familiar that we cease to experience you and your gospel in them and around us. Amen.

Scripture Passages – Luke 10:25-37 and Luke 10:38-42