

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to pay attention to Your Words, to take them to heart, and not to ignore them by being too busy in my life. Amen.

Memory

1. “Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy” (Exodus 20:8).
2. Jesus said, “Where two or three have been brought together in My name, there I am among them” (Matthew 18:20).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #11 of 13: Jesus Visits Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

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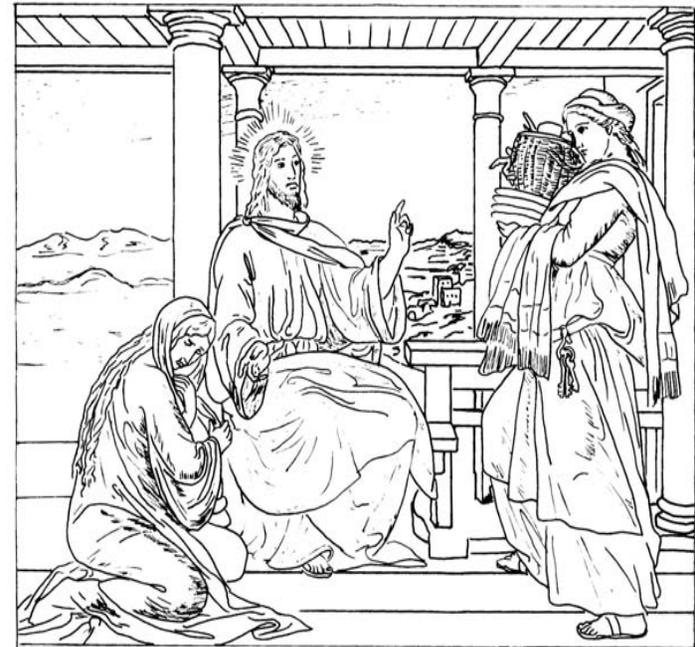


Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #11 of 13

Third Commandment *Jesus Visits Mary and Martha*



God says to you in the third commandment,
“Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy”
(Exodus 20:8).

THIS MEANS you must not allow other activities to keep you away from regular worship, but willingly attend as often as you are able.

Bible Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. What was Martha doing? What did this busyness prevent her from doing?

Martha was very busy, trying to do many things to make Jesus feel welcomed and comfortable in the house. Because she was so busy, Martha did not have time to do the one thing that Jesus wanted most for her to do. Jesus wanted Martha to sit and visit with Him, so that she could hear Jesus' comforting and life-giving Words.

2. What was Mary doing? What did Jesus say about Mary?

While Martha was busy, Mary was sitting with Jesus, listening to what He said. Jesus said that Mary made the right choice. Mary was doing the only thing that really needed to be done, which was to listen and give attention to God's Words.

3. Jesus says this about gathering for worship: "I am in the midst of you" (Matthew 18:20). This means that Jesus comes to visit you in the worship service, just as He came to visit Mary and Martha.

a. What sorts of things prevent you from going to your congregation's worship service?

There are many different reasons why people might miss worship. Sometimes people cannot avoid missing worship, such as when they are ill or out of town or their parents do not wish to take them to worship. However, there are also times when people skip worship services for bad reasons. These bad reasons might include feeling lazy, thinking worship is not very enjoyable, or thinking they have better things to do as Martha did.

b. What things distract you or turn your attention away from Jesus when you are at the worship service?

Even while at worship, it is easy to be like Martha, who was not paying attention to Jesus and His Words. Maybe you have sat in worship, but have been thinking about other things, such as what you will do when you get home, what you would like to eat, or similar things. Maybe there are other people in worship who take your attention away from Jesus and His Words. Maybe they do this by their own speaking when it is not their turn to speak.

4. Jesus also says this about gathering for worship: "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

a. How does this verse help you understand why Jesus called Mary's listening "the right choice"?

Jesus speaks His Words to you in worship so that you may have, and be certain that you have, His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Mary made "the right choice" because she sat and allowed Jesus to have the focus of her attention. Martha was wrong about worship: worship is not about what you can do for Jesus! Worship is about what Jesus does for you, speaking His Words to you. Jesus did not come to be served, as Martha mistakenly believed. Jesus came to serve and to give His life for Martha, for Mary, and for you.

b. What promise does Jesus speak concerning Mary? In what way are these Words comforting also for you?

Jesus says that Mary's listening—and the good things that come to her through her listening—will not be taken away from her. That is to say, when Jesus gives you forgiveness and life through His Words, these gifts are yours forever!