

Journey Through the New Testament

Luke 6 – 10

Series: Authentically Human

“Sister Act”

3-17-19

Introduction

In this week’s readings, Jesus continued traveling from town to town. Along the way, he performed miracles and provided teaching through parables. The opposition from teachers of the law intensified as Jesus demonstrated compassion and forgiveness to those outside Jewish law.

The miracles, parables and sayings from the life of Christ may be sounding familiar to you as you work your way through the gospel readings. Ninety percent of Mark is found in Matthew’s gospel and fifty percent of Mark is found in Luke. The similarities found in these three gospels are why they are known as the *synoptic gospels*. *Syn* means “together with” and *optic* means “seeing.” Taken together, then, we see the gospel message unfold. (www.biblica.com)

In this series, *Authentically Human*, pay attention to the brokenness, sin, and distress in the people Jesus encounters. As you read, notice the very human behaviors of the disciples and Jesus’ way of being authentically human, perfectly demonstrating how to live according to the kingdom of God.

Opening Prayer

O God, in our hurried lives, full of obligations and expectations, strengthen our desire to spend time in your presence. Give us grace and increase our faith that we may choose that which is better—better for us and for all whom we meet. Help us to become more fully human. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Bible Study Luke 10:38-42 (CEB)

1. What was the setting for Jesus and the disciples?
2. What was Mary doing? Martha? (v. 39-40)
3. What problem arose for Martha?
4. What did Martha want Jesus to do? (Imagine the tone of her voice!)

So What?

1. Hospitality was, and still is, an important aspect of culture in Palestine. So, what obligations would Martha have had as she opened her home to Jesus and the disciples?
2. How would this have contributed to her being “worried and distracted?” (v. 41)
3. So, what human dynamics in this story come from the fact that Mary and Martha are sisters? Who do you think might have been the first born?

Mary has chosen the better part...

1. How would you define what Mary chose? (v. 42b, and refer back to v. 39)
2. Why is Mary’s choice “better” than Martha’s? Would Martha agree?
3. Jesus said what Mary chose, “will not be taken away from her.” Why do you think Jesus allowed Mary to continue listening rather than granting Martha’s request for help?
4. What do you think Martha did next?

Now What?

Discuss the following questions in groups of 2-3 people.

1. Who do you identify with in this story, Mary or Martha?
2. What comes more easily to you, doing or being?
3. In our discipleship, when might we need to be a Martha? A Mary? Discuss.
4. Discuss the importance of balancing being and doing.
5. As you think about your human tendencies and your growth as a disciple, what insight have you gained from reflecting upon this passage from Luke’s gospel?
6. Now what do you need to focus on?

Closing

Hand out a copy of *A Litany for the Hurried Life (I Haven’t the Time Lord)* by Don E. Saliers.

If time allows, divide the class into two groups and read aloud as a responsive reading.

I Haven't the Time, Lord

I'd like to walk under the open sky long enough to let the rain rain down on me and let the sun warm my face;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to be attentive to the song of birds and of all creatures hemming the world to you;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to watch the moon light dancing on the waters with companions and even howl at the moon;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to visit those who are ill and confined who need a smile and the touch of human care;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to bring healing and peace to the imprisoned, the stranger, to the dying;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to write a long letter to my friends and family and tell them each how life is with me and thank them for just being;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't the time.

I'd like to be still one evening long enough to see the subtle change from light to dark and the deepening hues of nightfall;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

I'd like to praise you for all that we've been given with all the breath within me;

But I haven't the time Lord, I haven't time.

O merciful One, take from us the burden of rushing through our lifetimes.

Redeem the time with us, in us and through us and help us live in your time.

Our times are in your hands.

By Don E. Saliers