**Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)**

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.”

**“Mighty Works? Mighty Word!”**

**Intro: Higher Things “From Above” (New Birth by God)**

* **Great distinction between city of Tacoma & Mt. Rainer**
* Busyness did not remove what lay in the background unchanged before the ways of man.
* Traveling down to the docks of Point Defiance Park was quick compared to the time of driving up that mountain.
* Finally, getting to the top of Mt. Rainer visitor center almost “felt” you could climb to the top kind of like any other trip in Tacoma. Not! Man came down dressed for what was really up there.
* **This is how life is in even greater ways we do not see.** Time is what we have here below. Yet, eternity is from above. How can one ever truly compare to the other? Rather than playing who points out the truth? Who out of love makes the impact we need?
* Jesus alone comes where we could not go in order to save by the Gospel.
* Jesus alone reveals His clothes of humility by being God in the flesh for sinners.
* Jesus alone takes the time to visit still today by His Word and Sacrament.
* The introit said it well, “The earth, O Lord is full of your steadfast love; Teach me your statutes!”

**Jesus turns us to need His service because it truly is from above for us poor souls here below.**

1. **Hospitality to serve did not make Martha “bad,” but miss the comfort given by the better Savior.**
* Busy taking care of Jesus visiting. (Why not? They were women!)
* Distracted over much to do at that time. (Multi-tasker, memorable visit, act of love)
* Worrisome over who the Messiah is in her midst. “Lord, don’t you care?” “Don’t you see what is not being done!”
* Tried to turn the Gospel into Law. “Order Mary to help!”
* Jesus tells sinners entrapped by their works, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.”
1. **Hospitality to be served by Jesus is an eternal treasure Mary took hold of as her own.**
* “Martha, Martha one thing is necessary” Many things, but the Father has sent His one and only Son to sinners. Jesus and the Word are inseparable.
* He is the “good portion” that nothing can take away!
* Welcoming Christ is to sit at His feet not putting “me” at the same level of His Word.
* His Word saves in time for eternity.
* St. Paul proclaims, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” (The working Word)
1. **Hospitality is what Jesus extends to us by being the host and gift of His Divine Service.**
* OT the “Lord” came to Abraham with His Word of life as a promise for barren Sarah.
* NT Word of Jesus is life for the empty and short-lived works of Martha.
* St. Ambrose tells us, “So let us also strive to have what no one can take away from us, so that not careless but diligent hearing may be granted to us. For even the seeds of the heavenly Word itself are likely to be taken away if they are sowed by the wayside. Let the desire for wisdom lead you as it did Mary. It is a greater and more perfect work. Do not let service divert the knowledge of the heavenly Word.…” [[1]](#footnote-1)
* This was the service of God not in Tacoma the city or some great mountain, but in Christ who came 4 times a day during the conference. (His service is divine able to forgive sins, destroy death, and is present to put down the devil.)
* One thing is necessary; faith hears the Word of Jesus and time take it away.

The Third Commandment has a whole new meaning. Martin Luther writes in the Large Catechism, “For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have. At whatever hour, then, God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read or mediated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word which makes saints of us all.”

**Jesus turns us to need His service because it truly is from above for us poor souls here below.**

1. Just, Arthur A.: *Luke*. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2005 (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture NT 3 3), S. 182 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)