

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #38

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 6:27-36

Sermon Date: June 11, 2006

Introduction:

“Hi Martha, how are you?”

“Oh, I’m *really busy* these days! There’s a prophet coming through town tomorrow. A couple of his disciples came through a while ago to let us know about him. I’ve got so much to get ready – cleaning the house, buying the food, ... I’m so glad Mary will be here tomorrow to help.”

Isn’t that the answer we hear so often today? “How are you?” “Oh, I’m *so busy!*” We find ourselves replying this way almost as if it’s a badge of success in our busy world. Beyond the home front, it’s similar at work. “They just laid off some of our team, so now I’m going to have to travel more and handle some extra projects!” Oh for the good ole days, when life was simpler.

In our better moments, we see our busy-ness with more critical eyes. Perhaps in a Bible study or spiritual conversation, we lament about our lack of time with God, to read his Word, to pray, to prepare to share his gospel.

Fortunately, this study time is an opportunity to slow down and be with God. So before you begin, take a moment to ask God to guide you and help you to hear from him.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"</p> <p>⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."</p>	

Looking Back:

2. What is the recurring theme in the following verses in Luke? What does Jesus seem to have to remind people about over and over again?

6:46-49

8:8-15

8:18

8:21

9:35

9:44

10:16

10:24

10:39

3. How do the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and the scene at Martha's house (10:38-42) relate to the "Great Commandment" that the law expert repeated to Jesus in Luke 10:27?

4. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

5. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

6. What does it look like to “sit at the Lord’s feet and listen to him” today? (Note NASB translation of 10:39: “She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word.”)

7. What kinds of things distract people from listening to Christ?

a. What distracts us from having rich times of prayer?

b. What distracts us from truly hearing his Words when we read the scriptures?

c. What distracts us from allowing sermons to sink in and affect our lives?

d. Which of these distractions is most problematic for you, and what steps could you take to avoid being distracted from sitting attentively before God?

8. What do you think is the “one thing” Jesus refers to in 10:42?

9. Martha came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that ...” What are some of the similar questions on your own heart today? Complete the following sentence with one or more things in your own life that you wonder if God really cares about:

Lord, don’t you care that ...

Look Ahead:

10. Briefly read ahead and consider how this week’s passage relates to Luke 11:1-13. What connections do you see?

Listen Up:

11. Take some time to get away from distractions (remember 7.a.) and simply “sit at Jesus’ feet” to listen to him. You might find the guidelines on the following page helpful. Perhaps there is a question or concern on your heart that you need to bring before God. Or perhaps a scripture passage that you want to ‘marinate’ in and allow God to speak to your heart through. Bring such questions, verses or other things that are on your mind up to God, and then let Him steer your thoughts.

“This is my Son, who I have chosen; listen to him.” (Lk 9:35)

Listening Prayer Guidelines

1. Still And Quiet Your Soul

Quiet and still your soul before God from the cares of the day.

2. Resist The Enemy

Take your place of authority by saying something like, "In the name of Jesus Christ I prohibit the enemy from speaking or interfering with this time."

3. Invoke His Presence

Praise and acknowledge God as the One who is truly there. Ask that He would especially reveal Himself to you during your time of listening.

4. Ask God to Search Your Heart

Talk to him about what he reveals. Confess any known sin.

5. Ask God to Speak to You

Use the model of Samuel, "Speak Lord for I, Your servant, am listening."

6. Wait in Silence

Be still and quietly wait before Him.

7. Use a Pen & Paper to Write Down the Impressions He Brings Your Way

Usually this will be words, phrases, visual images or thoughts that come into your mind through His still small voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

I have much more to say to you ... But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. (John 16:12-14)

Be still and know that I am God.