

## **BIBLE READING DAY 25, WEDNESDAY: MARCH 23**

### **Mission of the Seventy,**

Luke 10:1–12, 16–20; Matthew 11:21–24

*Now after these things, the Lord chose seventy others and sent them on before him, two by two, into every town and district where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, “The harvest truly is abundant, but the reapers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out reapers into his harvest. Go your way. Behold, I am sending you forth as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, or a bag for provisions, or an extra pair of sandals, and do not stop to exchange greetings with anyone along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; and if not, it shall return to you. Stay in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not move from house to house.*

*“Whatever town you enter where the people receive you, eat whatever is set before you, heal the sick, and say to the people, ‘The kingdom of God has come near you.’ But whatever town you enter where the people do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town which clings to our feet, we wipe off as a protest against you. Nevertheless, be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near you.’ I say to you, it will be better for Sodom in the day of judgment than for that town.*

*“Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you! And you, Capernaum, are you to be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to hell! For if the mighty works which have been done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you!”*

*Then said Jesus to the seventy, “He who listens to you listens to me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects the Father who sent me.”*

*And the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”*

*Then said Jesus, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing can harm you in any way. Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you; but instead, rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

### **Parable of the Good Samaritan,**

Luke 10:25–37

*And a certain lawyer stood up to put Jesus to a test. And he said, “Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*“What is written in the law?” asked Jesus, “how does it read to you?”*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” he replied, “and your neighbor as yourself.”*

*“You have answered correctly,” said Jesus. “This do, and you will live.”*

*“But who is my neighbor?” he asked, wanting to justify himself. In reply, Jesus said,*

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*“Racism is not first and foremost a skin problem. It is a sin problem. See, when you believe that racism is a skin problem, you can take three hundred years of slavery, court decisions, marches, and the federal government involvement and still not get it fixed right.”*

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— Tony Evans

*“A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. And he fell among thieves who stripped him of his clothing and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now it happened that a certain priest was going down that road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In like manner a Levite, too, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

*“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion on him and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day, when he departed, he took*

*out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, when I come back, I will repay you.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell among the thieves?”*

*“The man who showed mercy to him,” replied the lawyer.*

*“Go and do likewise,” said Jesus.*

### **Jesus Visits Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38–42**

*Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village, and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the Lord’s feet and was listening to his teaching. But Martha was distracted about much serving, and she came to Jesus and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me.”*

*“Martha, Martha,” replied Jesus, “you are troubled and concerned about so many things. There is really need for only one. Mary has chosen what is best, and it shall not be taken away from her.”*

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*“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.”*

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Corrie Ten Boom, *My Notebook*

<i>Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry</i>														
EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING

## DEVOTIONAL DAY 25 (WEDNESDAY MARCH 23)

### Three Reactions

*Based on Luke 10:38-42*

#### 1.) Mary's Response: (vs. 39)

We don't know what is happening with Mary during this time. But I'm sure that she struggled with something. I'm sure that she probably dealt with brokenness and struggled with personal sin. But notice what she did. She sat in stillness and listened. She sought peace during turmoil.

It is the word 'listen' that should stand out to you. This means that she not only heard what Jesus said but that she was also processing those words. When we listen, we begin to think how to apply the information that we have heard. Mary sat and listened to what Christ was teaching. By listening to Christ, we gain an understanding of how to move through the brokenness of our lives.

#### 2.) Martha's Response: (vs. 40)

Martha allows Christ to enter but then chooses to work rather than listen to what Christ has to say. The Greek verb for the word "distracted" means to "draw away". The MSG Bible says, "*She was pulled away by all she had to do.*" One might conclude that Martha bottled up the real problem and distracted herself from Christ's teaching by distracting herself with busy work.

Questions to consider:

- 1.) What things, even good things, do we allow to pull us away from Jesus?
- 2.) How often do we do busy work to hide our struggles?
- 3.) Jesus's Response: (vs. 41-42)

"*Martha, Martha.*" This rebuke was one of tenderness and He was more concerned about the state of her heart than the state of her home. When you feel overwhelmed, realize that Christ is speaking to you with that same tenderness. He loves you and wants to mend your brokenness.

"*You are worried and upset about many things.*" Often, we try to fix our problems on our own. We try to fill the holes in our lives with more things that leave us feeling emptier. Jesus wants us to remember that we are to cast out cares worries and anxieties on Him. He wants to restore our balance and give us sure footing.

"*But few things are needed- or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*" This comparison of the busy, constantly moving woman in contrast with the eager to learn and sit at the feet of Jesus shows us what Christ values most. The real value isn't found in the temporary relief but in the peace that only God can provide. Christ wants us to lean into Him, to sit at His feet, and hear His words of truth, which are meant to comfort.

Luke 10:42 reminds us that the physical can be taken away from us: our possessions, friends, health, etc.; but the Lord's love, mercy, and grace are eternal.

**Father God, make me like Mary, to sit at Your feet. Make me like Martha, ready to serve but also ready to listen when I need to be corrected. Most of all, make me like Jesus, and keep what is truly important at the forefront of my service and devotion to You. Amen**

--By Matt Cornelius

**WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:**

**WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?**

**PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?**

**ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION** (How God Can Supply Needs)

**A**

**C**

**T**

**S**