

Acts of Mercy: Seeking the Common Good

Luke 10:38-42 (NRSV)

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Discuss the following questions. If you are in a larger group, you may want to divide into groups of three for this discussion. You may then decide to report back to the larger group or to move directly to prayer time.

1. What are some of the things that we all need for our physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual good?
2. In this scripture passage, what was Jesus seeing as the common good? What did both Mary and Martha need for their personal well-being?
3. What does our congregation need for our common good?
4. What does our community need for our common good?

Prayer:

O God, you desire good for all of your people. We seek to understand what the needs are. Lead us, Lord, that we might be agents of your common good in our church and in our community. We pray in the name of Jesus, the one who brings the message of your good. Amen.