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A Lesson from Two Sisters

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It's the story of two sisters, Martha and Mary, welcoming Jesus into their home. Luke tells his readers the story and with it, reveals the struggle we all face — the struggle between distraction and devotion, Luke 10:38-42. Through Martha's frustration and Mary's focus, Jesus teaches us the importance of prioritizing what truly matters, and provides essential wisdom for a world consumed by busyness.

MARTHA'S DISTRACTION

Martha, the diligent hostess, opened her home to Jesus with a heart eager to serve. She busied herself with preparations, ensuring every detail was perfect for her guest. But, her focus on menial tasks soon overshadowed the precious opportunity of spending time with Jesus. Martha worked; Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His words instead of helping. Frustrated, Martha appealed, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Luke 10:40. Her words reveal a heart burdened by distraction. Caught up in the "many things" she deemed necessary, Martha neglected the rare opportunity to sit in the presence of Christ.

MARY'S CHOICE

Mary chose a different path. Rather than joining Martha in the flurry of preparations, she positioned herself at Jesus' feet, captivated by His teaching. Her decision was not born of laziness or apathy, but the opposite. She recognized that being with Jesus was the most valuable use of her time. It is born of discernment. When Martha complained, Jesus responded gently: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her," 41-42. Jesus sustained Mary's priority, declaring that her devotion held eternal significance.

A TIMELESS LESSON

Jesus' words to Martha were not a rejection of her service but a redirection of her focus. He pointed out that her worry and distraction were unnecessary when only one thing truly mattered: communion with Him. The lesson powerfully remains. In our fast-paced lives, we tend to mirror Martha—overwhelmed by to-do lists, work, and endless distractions, we neglect the "one thing" that anchors us. Jesus invites us to pause and choose what is better, just as Mary did. Martha and Mary challenge us to examine our priorities. Are we so busy serving, achieving, or scrolling that we miss God's messages of truth for our own contemporary lives? Like Mary, we must intentionally carve out time for prayer, Bible study, and worship. Moments of stillness reconnect us to the source of peace and purpose. Jesus does not dismiss our responsibilities but calls us to balance them with devotion.

This wonderful story has the power inspire to you to evaluate your life. Are you choosing the "many things" over the "one thing"? Take a step today — set aside time to sit at Jesus' feet. In His presence, you will find what truly matters, a treasure that will never be taken away. ☐

A Perfect Answer in the Perfect Storm

by Jon W. Quinn

A “perfect storm” is a storm where all the atmospheric conditions are ideal for producing violent weather. Fronts collide; air pressure, humidity, and so forth all seem to be cooperating to bring disaster. The sea is a dangerous place to be at such a time with hurricane force winds and gigantic waves.

Souls caught up in such a storm will struggle to survive, up to a point. Under what circumstances would someone stop struggling? Usually, it would be when the last hope died and there is an awareness that nothing else can be done - perhaps when the boat is flipped and sinks into the depths like a bullet. Inside the cabin that has filled with water men realize that even escaping the cabin at such a depth would make it impossible to reach the surface. Even if the surface was reached, there are still the maelstrom.

At that point, why struggle? Why fight it? There is nothing left. Using this situation as a metaphor, I do not ever want to be so overwhelmed mentally, emotionally, or spiritually by life’s storms that I am so hopeless and prospects are so non-existent that I simply must resign to my fate. Men and women of faith can reach the potential of being protected absolutely and completely, from being so overwhelmed that all is beyond hope. We can find such assurance in a strong, developed trust and faith even in times plagued with winds and waves of trouble. This is so whatever form our adversary takes; whether human or circumstance. The first verse of the 27th Psalm captures this confidence very well as it is spoken by one who had endured several “perfect storms.”

The LORD is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the defense of my life;

Whom shall I dread? (Psalm 27:1)

“The Lord is my light and salvation.” If anyone ever had opportunity to trust in God when nothing else would do, it was David. Some of his problems were self-inflicted (truth be told, that is probably true with all of us), but others were the result of His righteousness. This Psalm is about a trust that brings the faithful through troubled times and restored joy, peace, and confidence. It is as if one is swallowed by the ocean depths in darkness with no hope, and then, there is light and hope and peace and deliverance. This light comes to us through our faith in Jesus Christ, at least it does if our faith is what it ought to be and can be (John 8:12).

“The Lord is my defender.” That is true for every wind and every wave of whatever storm I may face in my life to its very end, and beyond when, at long last, I am out of the storms and at home with God (Romans 8:35-39). Eternity need not be a dark abyss into which we sink forever. There is salvation in the Lord who is the defense of our lives when no other defense will do. Though afflicted, no power can destroy me if I place my trust in God to save me. There is every reason to start heading for the surface, because in Christ there is salvation! Even death is no longer an overwhelming flood.

So, there is a perfect answer to the storms of life; even the “perfect storm.” Today’s forecast is: The Son will shine forever