



April 17-23, 2016
Texts: *Luke 10:38-42*
SPRING 2016 SERIES:
The Christian and Spiritual Gifts

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Martha was a classic server. Unfortunately, in this episode she was not serving in love, but under compulsion. Thus, she missed what was most important – spending time learning from Jesus. Our Lord’s rebuke of Martha was not for her serving, but for her wrong attitude and her misplaced priorities. Like Martha, servers in the body of Christ function as the “hands” of the body.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week highlight some servers and server characteristics.]

*Monday, April 18 – **John 13:1-17*** [Jesus’ washing of His disciples’ feet is a supreme example of His motivational gift of serving. It is all the more notable because His disciples rightly saw that He was the Master. But Jesus demonstrated the nature of His servant love in this act.]

*Tuesday, April 19 – **Mark 10:35-45*** [The disciples were looking for status and prestige. Jesus said, “Not so with you.” His followers are to have servant hearts. No wonder – in v. 45 Jesus makes it clear that He came to serve and to give Himself up in love by serving us through the cross and bringing us forgiveness from sins.]

*Wednesday, April 20 – **John 11:1-44*** [In this miracle of Lazarus, Martha and Mary’s brother, being brought to life by Jesus, we see that Martha has done some “sitting at Jesus’ feet” – i.e. learning from Him. She confidently asserts her faith in Him and who He is in both vv.22 and 27]

*Thursday, April 21 – **II Kings 4:8-37*** [The Shunammite woman appears to have the motivational gift of serving. She was hospitable and, knowing that Elisha, was a man of God, supplied his practical needs. The miracle of Elisha raising her son back to life foreshadows how Martha sought Jesus on behalf of her brother, Lazarus.]

*Friday, April 22 – **Matthew 25:31-46*** [In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus is calling all of His followers to loving actions on the part of others. It is often those motivated as servers who lead the way in alerting the body of Christ to the practical needs of others.]

*Saturday, April 23 – **Acts 9:36-43*** [In yet another story of someone being brought back to life, this time by Peter, the recipient, Dorcas, has all the appearances of being a server. She was known for her practical help of others in the name of Christ.]



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