

Luke 10:40

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

Some churches put so much emphasis on serving, that they don't understand why people don't. I know that sounds kind of strange, after all, shouldn't we all be serving in the church? You may be surprised by my answer, but I would say the answer is Yes and No.

Let me explain my answer a little better. We should all be tithing, and going to church and talking with one another and encouraging and praying for one another in the church. But there are also things outside of the church that people should be doing. After all didn't Paul say, "**Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.**" 1 Corinthians 12:29-31

And the answer to Paul's question is No, because not everyone is a teacher of God's word and not all have the gift of healing, not everyone speaks in tongues, and so on. So not everyone has to have a so called ministry in the church itself (I'm talking building here) But everyone, and I do mean Everyone, should be doing something for the Kingdom of God, but that does not mean everyone should be doing something in the church (building).

Think of Evangelists, they go outside of the church (building) and share Jesus, and those with the gift of healing, they do not have a room or office in the church that has a sign saying, "**Healing Room**". No those with the gift of healing will pray for those in the church, but also for those outside the church as well.

But some churches puts so much emphasis on serving in the church, that they put less effort in teaching those in the church, or teaching other messages besides serving in the church. Let's take today's verse as an example. Jesus was in the house of Mary and her sister Martha. And Martha was an example of the church that says that everyone should be serving in the church so get busy because that's your calling. But Mary knew what was important, and Jesus emphasizes this when He said:

† **Luke 10:41-42** *And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**"*

Now, it doesn't mean that Mary never served in the church or others outside of the church. And it's very likely that Mary did serve after Jesus was done teaching. But Mary knew that to serve inside or outside of the church, she needed to be equipped with God's word, which was what she was doing. Martha complained about her own ministry of serving, because that's all she focused on. But I think Mary served later with joy and love, because she spent time focusing on Jesus first.

“But I can’t stop doing, so many depend upon me and the things I do.” You may be thinking. But, isn’t that what Martha thought when she wanted Mary to serve along with her? Martha thought that what she was doing was so important, and that the people needed what she was doing, more than what Jesus was doing.

Read that again, just a little slower this time:

Martha thought that what she was doing was so important, and that the people needed what she was doing, more than what Jesus was doing.

Even with Christmas just around the corner, people get so involved in preparation for it by setting up their tree, the lights, going shopping, etc.. that they get so exhausted that by the time Christmas comes around and all they want to do is nothing and recoup from all their work, instead of enjoying the day with Jesus.

† **Luke 10:39** *And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.*

† **Mark 6:30-31** *Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, "**Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.**" For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.*