**“Church Ladies”**

Going deeper in Luke 10:38-42

**INTRODUCTION –** The story of Mary and Martha is significant both for where it falls in Luke’s Gospel and for the example Luke uses to make a point about discipleship. It comes in the middle of three key passages, each of which addresses a different aspect of our relationship to God: how we relate to neighbors (10:25-37), how we engage in prayer with God (11:1-13), and how we view one another and our time with God (10:38-42).

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*  **38**As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39**She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. **40**But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

**41**“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, **42**but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. When you hear the term “church lady” what images, positive and negative, come to mind?

2. What is significant about how Jesus relates to the two sisters?

3. Martha is serving as a disciple should. What causes Jesus to reprimand her?

4. How are “sitting at the feet” of Jesus and serving Jesus related? Is one more important than the other? Why? Why not?

5. How are you finding balance in your spiritual journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks that the good news of Jesus and discipleship with him is open to ALL people!

\*Ask that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to any imbalance in your discipleship journey and ask for wisdom in taking steps to make healthy corrections.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Mary and Martha are “church ladies” in the best sense! They are devoted and passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. Will you do as Mary did and chose “what is better” in your walk with Jesus this week? As you serve, will you be on guard against becoming “worried and upset over many things”? As you consider your relationship with Christ, may you find balance within reflection and service and may you continue to grow as a disciple.