

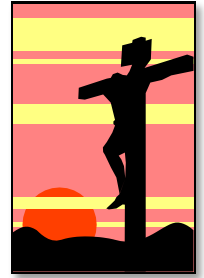
Southern Maine Church of Christ

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May 10, 2020



*We love Him,
because He
first loved us.*

- 1 John 4:19 -

Priorities and Perspective



In Luke 10:38-42, we see Martha opening her home to Jesus and his disciples. This was a kind and noble gesture. But then we read that Martha was overly occupied and became “distracted,” “worried,” “upset,” and “burdened” by all the preparations that had to be made. She then asked Jesus, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? (to do all this work by myself?) Therefore, tell her to help me!” We can almost hear the anxiety, frustration and anger in her voice. The Lord responded: “Martha, Martha, you are worried (anxious; bothered with cares) and troubled (disturbed; upset) about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good (better) part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Was the Lord rebuking Martha with these words? Or, was he perhaps gently reminding her that she needed to re-adjust her priorities? The things we worry about and get upset over are very real to us and often legitimate. But, when we allow the temporal physical concerns of this life to obscure and take precedence over spiritual things, we are heading for trouble. One of the things Jesus identifies as preventing the seed (the word of God) from producing fruit in one’s heart is “life’s worries” (Luke 8:14). Yes, the meal preparation was important, just as is feeding and nourishing our physical being. But, the feeding and nourishing of the spiritual being, the inner man, is *more* important and should have top priority in our lives (Matthew 4:4; 6:33; 1 Peter 2:2).

What started out as a kind and noble gesture went sour because of Martha’s flawed perspective. Perspective can be simply and generally defined as the way we view things. It seems that, on this occasion, Martha saw her service as a burden rather than a blessing. This can happen to us as well. When we view our spiritual disciplines (study, prayer, & worship), and our Christian service as a burden, we will be (to quote a phrase from the Apostle Paul), “of all men most miserable!” (1 Cor 15:19). A more beneficial and biblical way to view our service to God and others would be to regard it as a sacred privilege. To be used by God in his honorable service should be regarded as a blessing—a special right, granted to us as his faithful, beloved children. To God be the glory!

— Terry Schmidt ✍

Happy Mother’s Day!



“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.” — Pr 31:28

Visits to Our Web Page

This Week: 2,281

This Month: 9,111

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -

Hear the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

Believe [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31
Heb 11:6

Repent of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

Confess Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;
Rom 10:8-10

Be baptized - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;
1 Pet 3:21

Be faithful unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- Acts 4:12 -



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Billie Jo (Pat Miller's daughter) - recently suffered a nervous breakdown
- Brother Josiah Carelse & family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Corona Pandemic - its effect and overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - kidney disease; various health concerns
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Bill Ferrigno (friend of Terry S) - recently diagnosed with lymphatic cancer
- Sandy Gagnon - health concerns
- Glenda's aunts in California:
 - Beverly* - pacemaker & hip replacement
 - Mary Lou* - kidney failure; now on dialysis
 - Sandra* - recent shoulder surgery
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on left side of her neck causing pain; also lost her job due to the covid-19 virus
- Connie Henderson - recently diagnosed with a fast-growing ovarian cancer; scheduled to undergo 3 rounds of chemotherapy (having third treatment on May 13); chemo is working; white & red blood cells are in a normal range with cancer cells decreasing; this will most likely be followed by major surgery to physically remove the remaining cancer
- Terry Kennedy - healing well from recent right knee replacement surgery
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Debbie McGarey (mother-in-law of Terry & Betty's daughter, Becky) - stage 4 throat cancer; also recently fell and broke her hip
- Pat Miller - being treated for diverticulitis
- George Nick - family issues & concerns
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy - back home now, but in severe pain; pain meds being administered intravenously; prayers needed for him and his family as his health declines
- Wayne Sampson - recovering from surgery on right shoulder & a torn right bicep tendon; severe bursitis hip pain (had cortisone shot 5/7); also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- Please pray for our nation - (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

News & Notes:

- ⇒ Brother Paul Bullock will be at the building on Sunday morning at 9:30 for Bible study and 10:30 for those who may desire to worship and partake of the Lord's Supper.
- ⇒ Those worshipping at home can view this week's sermon "**Martha, Martha**" by going to our web page at: www.southernmainecofc.com/
Click on "Sermons." There are also other sermons available for you to view.



Our sister **Paula Kennedy** observed a birthday last Sunday, **May 3rd**, and our brother Jim **Miller** observed his on Saturday, **May 9th**. We hope your special day was enjoyable and memorable! ☺

Betty Schmidt — May 16th

Paul Cote — May 30th



George & Catherine — May 31st
