

Jesus said,

**“Work
for the night is coming”**

**“Make disciples
of all nations,
baptizing them . . .
teaching
them . . .”**

**“Blessed is that
slave whom his
master finds so
doing when he
comes.”**

The Christian church is divided between
soul savers

body savers



Asceticism



Activism

tension

Social Peace
with others

Psychological
Peace with self

Legal Peace
with God

Psychological
Peace with self

Legal Peace
with God

Social peace
with others

Mary vs. Martha

Luke 10:38-42

reveals the
tension in the
Christian life
between work
and worship



**How to cultivate a
“Mary spirit” in a
“Martha world.”**

**Worshiping work
vs.
work as worship**

Bringing the Sabbath to our work.

Four characteristics of a “Martha” culture?

It is a place where work is both a
CURSE and a **BLESSING**.

- ✓ It is viewed as a **BURDEN**.
- ✓ It is a **MEANS** to get what we need and want.
- ✓ When **NEGLECTED**, it brings shame and blame.
- ✓ It has a **MESSIANIC** role in life.

Our functional Messiah is:

1. What most makes us feel alive.
2. What dictates our big life decisions.
3. What we make our greatest sacrifices to.

How is a Christian's posture toward work to be distinct in a fallen world?

Romans 12:1-8 can guide us.

1. He does not call for a special charismatic **encounter** as the key to faithfulness.
2. He does not advocate an emphasis on the **Law** as necessary for obedience.
3. He does not suggest that one must be **ordained** to some position to serve.
4. He does not have a 12 step or behavior modification **therapy** strategy.
5. He does not mention **prayer** or **Bible study** as a key to Christian service.

The worldly Christian seeks

***Serenity
without service.***

***Service
without surrender.***

***Surrender
without security.***

If we want a Mary spirit in a Martha world Romans 12:1-8 teaches us that:

1. The Grace of God must be deeply sensed. **We must feel secure.**
2. The Cross of Christ must be willingly carried. **We must separate our ego from our work.**
3. The Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used. **We must serve as an integrated part of a spiritual community.**

1. The Grace of God must be deeply sensed. **We must feel secure.**

Romans 12:1

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, . . .”

- ✓ We work not only to GET but to GIVE in response to God's gift.

Romans 1-11
The call to faith in what God has done for us.

Romans 12-16
The call to faithfulness in how we should live.

- ✓ Our witness to the Gospel is most powerful in **how we view our work.**
- ✓ Our work is a “service of worship.”
- ✓ When our **expectations** are formed by the Cross not the culture we will have a powerful witness to the Gospel.
 - My ego is not to be in play.
 - I expect to develop & demonstrate the character of God in the process.

**Our biggest challenge
is not failing to serve**

**but serving in a
worldly way and for
a worldly reason.**

1. The Grace of God must be deeply sensed. We must feel secure.
2. The Cross of Christ must be willingly carried. **We must separate our ego from our work.**

Romans 12:1b-2

“. . . to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

1. The Grace of God must be deeply sensed. We must feel secure.
2. The Cross of Christ must be willingly carried. **We must separate our ego from our work.**

- ✓ We must deal with “self” **before** we come to work not at work.
- ✓ Our “spirit of a servant” is revealed in our **response** when we are treated like one.

*Take your baptism seriously.
God does!*

*It is our oath as
Ambassadors
for Christ in a
fallen world.*



**Our response to
disappointment is
a more powerful
witness than our
ability to avoid it.**

3. The Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used. **We must serve as an integrated part of a spiritual community.**

- ✓ Our **uniqueness** should bring **humility** not elitism.

³ For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

- A “Mary” spirit does not find her identity in what she does so much as in who she is (in Christ) and why and how she works.

**We must resist
our culture's
pressures to let
our work be a
functional
Messiah in life.**

3. The Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used.
**We must serve as an integrated part of a
spiritual community.**

✓ **Our diversity** should bring
interdependence not competition.

"4 For just as we have many members in one body
and all the members do not have the same
function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in
Christ, and individually members one of another."

- A "Mary" spirit does not compare herself
with others (favorably or unfavorably)
but with God's call on her life.

3. The Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used.
**We must serve as an integrated part of a
spiritual community.**

✓ **How we serve is as important as
that we serve. (gracious boundaries)**

"6 And since we have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us, let each
exercise them accordingly: if prophecy,
according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if
service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in
his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his
exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he
who leads, with diligence; he who shows
mercy, with cheerfulness."

***The question is not
do we work on the
Sabbath but do we
bring the Sabbath to
our work.***

***How to encourage
a "Martha" spirit.***

1. **Emphasize service as the
means to security and
significance**
2. **without first dying to self**
3. **in response to the grace
of God in Christ.**

Do not seek:

***Serenity
without service.***

***Service
without surrender.***

***Surrender
without security.***