

luke 10.<sup>38-42</sup>

<sup>38</sup>Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. <sup>39</sup>And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me."

<sup>41</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: <sup>42</sup>but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

This is the 10th reading for Lent 2025. During Lent, one is asked to live a simpler life as one considers one's general life priorities. This reading invites us to examine our life priorities.

1. As the KJV has it, "Martha was cumbered about much serving."  
? What do you understand by Martha's being "*cumbered*"?

To be cumbered means to be "weighed down," or "hindered." The NIV translates "distracted."

- ? How do these potential alternate translations impact your understanding of Martha's blindness?

2. Jesus corrects Martha by pointing out that she is "careful and troubled about many things."  
? What was the tone, do you feel, of Jesus' rebuke?  
? What does it mean to be "careful and troubled"?  
? About what worldly cares and concerns are you "careful and troubled," that only serve to "weigh you down," "hinder you," or "distract you" from things of far more importance and eternal consequence?
3. Jesus tells Martha that "one thing is needful and that the needful thing is the "good part."  
? What is that "one needful and good thing"?  
? How practical and realistic does Jesus seem to you?  
? What is that "one needful and good thing" on which you could focus during Lent that could serve to assist you as you seek to permanently jettison distractions that hinder you from enjoying the more needful and eternal things of the Spirit?

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