

July 17, 2022

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Conversation questions:

Jesus says, "Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Given the history of the church, was he right?

When someone talks about "whitemalegod", how does that make you feel?

Do you think our society is patriarchal, with males, especially white males, holding all the power?

Quotes from early "Church Fathers":

Augustine:

"What is the difference whether it is in a wife or a mother. It is still Eve the temptress that we must be aware of in any woman."

[It is not possible that she was a friend or helpmate to man.]
"If it was good company and conversation that Adam needed, it would have been much better arranged to have two men together, as friends, not a man and woman."

Thomas Aquinas:

"As regards the individual nature, woman is defective and misbegotten, for the active force in the male seed tends to the production of a perfect likeness in the masculine sex, while the production of woman comes from a defect in the active force or from some material disposition or even from some external influence."

Tertullian (3rd century): "On Female Dress"

"It is time for you to know that you must not merely reject the pageantry of fictitious and elaborate beauty, but even the grace and beauty you enjoy naturally must be obliterated by concealment and negligence, because this is just as dangerous to the people who glance at you. For even though comeliness is not to be censured exactly ... It is to be feared, because of the injury and violence it inflicts on the men who admire you."

"You [woman] are the devil's gateway ... How easily you destroy man, the image of God. Because of the death which you brought upon us, even the Son of God had to die."