



September 10, 2023

"What a Difference a Preposition Makes!"

Luke 10:38-42

Careful to Pinpoint the Intended Contrast

Intake or output? Contemplation or activism? Monk or missionary?

The importance of intake: zealous without knowledge: **Romans 10:2-3**

The importance of output: be doers, not hearers only: **James 1:22**

Today's thesis: doing things **WITH** Jesus is better than doing things **FOR** Jesus

Doing Things **FOR** Jesus (Martha Mode)

Certainly there is a place to do something for Jesus: see **Mark 14:3-9**

The performative mindset of pleasing and appeasing

Where I concoct and initiate things that I think will please Jesus

Something prepared apart from Him in order to bring it to Him (surprise party)

¹Gain favor by earning, ²appease negativity by flattery, ³sway action by bribery

This approach tends to be ⁴independent ("welcomed Him into her house")

⁵The type of serving is ironically self-centered ("Tell her to help me")

⁶Exhausting ("distracted with much serving," ⁷"anxious & troubled about many things")

Doing Things **WITH** Jesus (Mary Mode)

Jesus modeled with the twelve what He wants for all His followers

He desires to be with us and, out of that, empower us for service: **Mark 3:13-15**

He calls us 'friends' and not servants: **John 15:15**

¹Instead of earning favor, we are already in ("sit at Jesus' feet")

^{2,3}Since Jesus needs nothing, we don't add to Jesus, but He to us ("listen to Him")

⁴This approach doesn't offer Jesus innovations but follows Jesus' lead

⁵This approach is Christ-centered, attention on what Jesus is doing

⁶This approach is sustainable, fueled with the energy that comes from Him

Herein lies the better portion, the one necessary thing: **Luke 10:42**

Practically How Do I Do Things with an Invisible Jesus?

Time alone with heart and mind receptive to Jesus: **Luke 6:12**

Time with fellow Jesus-followers: **Matthew 18:20**

Responding to what Jesus is already doing: **Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10**