

Volume 4, Day 28: Did Jesus Encourage Living Irresponsibly?

For many years I wondered why Mary was acting irresponsibly regarding the hospitality duties she had toward the guests in her home. I thought that Martha was perfectly justified in asking Jesus to send her sister in to help her with the kitchen in preparation for the community meal. Then in a very real and personal experience the Holy Spirit revealed to me the mystery of that story and why Mary and her story of irresponsibly sitting at the feet of Jesus was actually honored.

I had a supper gathering for 'An Evening with God.' We had a large crowd that night. I was preparing the meal and I had expected some to come assist me in the kitchen. That had been the usual pattern for these gatherings. At first I was frustrated because no one was offering to help. Everyone was milling about the living room chatting with each other.

I started to call one man to help me in the kitchen but I noticed he was talking to someone and it was obvious they were talking about something deeply spiritual. So I didn't call out his name. I glanced around the room for someone else to ask. I saw one of the women speaking to someone else and rather than call out her name I paused in the same manner realizing that she and the people she was chatting with were also engaging in conversation with God. A few others came in but immediately seemed to join into conversation about God as well. So I kept silent and kept on working diligently on the meal. I cooked and served without help all through the meal. Although I missed the entire conversation at the dinner table, I was able to join in when everyone moved into the living room.

The Holy Spirit revealed to me that this was for me a reenactment of the meal at Martha and Mary's home. He showed me that acting irresponsibly is appropriate when it is being responsive to God's purposes. There is nothing more important than engaging God in relationship! Even Jesus' disciples walked away from their co-workers and family members, leaving their duties behind for others to finish, in order to respond to Jesus' call, "Come, Follow Me!"