EATING TOGETHER

MARTHA AND MARY

In the gospels we usually find Jesus having meals in someone else’s house. One of the places where he may have felt most at home was the house of sisters Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus.

The story in Luke chapter 10, verses 38 – 42, gives us an insight into their lives. Jesus was there, and it seemed quite a few other men, so a meal had to be prepared. Lovely as it is having guests in your house, there is extra work, and it can be quite stressful making sure everything is just right. On this occasion Martha felt burdened by all she had to do, and complained that Mary, instead of helping her, had chosen to listen to Jesus teaching. This was more serious than we may think. In that society, study of the Scriptures was men’s business. Was Mary joining the men? Did she think she could become a teacher? This was deeply shocking. But Jesus affirmed Mary’s choice.

Which of the two sisters do we think is most like us? There are times when we need to be busy in the kitchen, or on any of the tasks that our life at church and service of Jesus ask of us. Getting ready for Christmas is especially busy. But there are also times when it is right to be quiet, and mentally to sit at the feet of the master. Where is the balance for you? Do you identify most with Martha, or with Mary? Our discipleship calls us to both. How will it work out for you this week?

*Produced by John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*