

## **Part 10 - Bringing Justice to Our World – Choosing the Better Role**

*Luke 10:38-42*

1. Why do you think women's roles have been so narrowly defined?

2. Read [Luke 10:38-42](#). What do you picture Martha doing as Jesus talks to Mary ([Luke 10:40](#))?

What do you think she is feeling?

3. Why does Martha complain to Jesus ([Luke 10:40](#))?

What does Martha think Jesus' expectations of her are?

4. How do you think Mary was feeling before Martha was upset?

How do you think she feels after Martha gets upset?

**5.** What does Jesus mean by "one thing is needed" ([Luke 10:42](#))?

**6.** Why hadn't Martha responded to her real need(s)?

**7.** Why is it still hard today for women to respond to their real needs?

In what ways do these limited gender roles make it hard for men as well?

**8.** In what ways do churches encourage the mentality that the "Martha" kind of service is the more acceptable role for women?

**9.** How might churches develop a more biblical attitude toward the role of women?

**10.** How would the gifts of the church be greatly enhanced if women were freer to develop their spiritual lives and gifts?

**11.** Whether you are male or female, what in your expectations of and attitudes toward women needs to change?

**Question 10.** Records of the early church indicate that Bethany became one of the central communities in the early Christian church. Mary and Martha were most likely a key to the spiritual growth of the Christian community there.