

**Nurturing Faith...**  
**Every Day in Every Way**

July 17, 2016

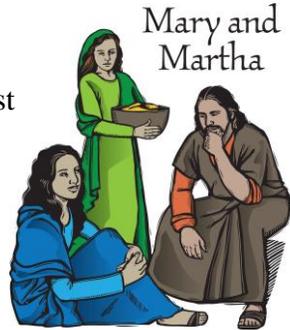
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**Genesis 18:1-10**

**Psalm 15**

**Colossians 1:15-28**

**Luke 10:38-42**



Mary and Martha

**The Most Important Thing.** Object: Go to a fast food restaurant and get a small paper bag, napkin, straw, packet of ketchup, and a paper cup with a lid on it.

Do you ever get hungry during church? Sometimes I get so hungry that I just don't think I can make it through the sermon. This was one of those mornings, so I went to a fast food place and got a hamburger. If you will excuse me, I am going to eat it right now. (Start removing the items from the paper bag one at a time, commenting on each one as you take it out. When you have removed all of the items from the bag, show surprise and concern that something seems to be missing -- the hamburger.)

Can you imagine that? I got so interested in getting all of these things to go with my hamburger, that I forgot the most important thing. I forgot to get the hamburger!

You probably think I am pretty foolish to have forgotten the hamburger; after all, that was the most important thing. Well, I am not the only person to ever do something so foolish. That is what our Bible lesson is about this morning.

As Jesus and his disciples were traveling, they came to a town where Martha lived with her sister Mary. The sisters welcomed Jesus into their home and Martha immediately began to work very hard to get supper ready for Jesus. While Martha busied herself in preparing the meal, Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to his teaching.

Martha was upset that her sister was not helping her, so she went to Jesus and said, "Do you see that my sister is not helping me? Tell her to help me."

Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about too many things. Only a few things are important, perhaps just one. Mary has chosen that one thing and I will not take it away from her."

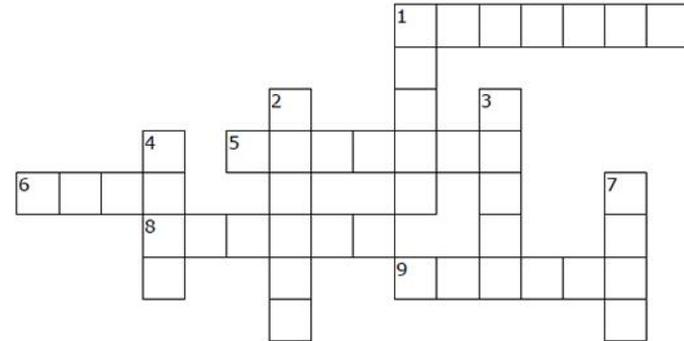
Many of us make the same mistake that Martha made. We get so busy working, going to school, playing, or watching television that we often forget the most important thing. We forget to spend time with Jesus! We must be very careful that we don't get so busy doing good things that we leave out the best! After all, Jesus is the most important thing!

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that you are the most important thing in our lives. Don't let us get so busy with other things that we forget to spend time with you. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Blessed are those who hold the word fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. Alleluia (Luke 8:15)

**Crossword Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

- 1. To be concerned about something; to be troubled
- 5. A very small town
- 6. The place where a family lives
- 8. To pay attention to what someone says
- 9. A spoken or written reply to a question

**DOWN**

- 1. An adult female human
- 2. A female having the same parents as another person
- 3. The son of God
- 4. To give assistance to someone
- 7. Activity, such as a job, which a person performs; labor

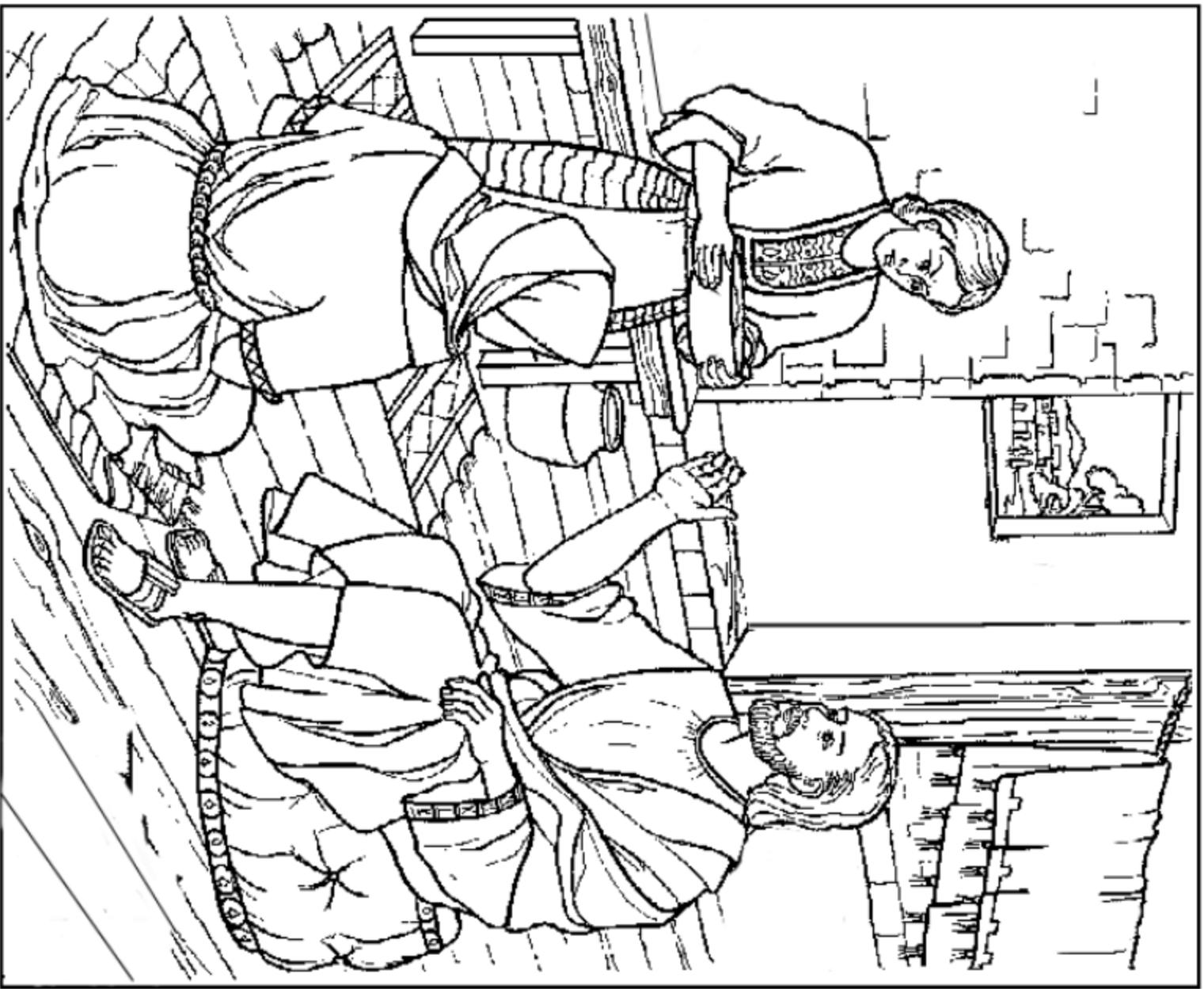
WORK	WORRIED	ANSWER	VILLAGE	WOMAN
HELP	HOME	JESUS	SISTER	LISTEN

**"JESUS" VISORS:** Provide the child with an inexpensive visor to decorate. Write JESUS in bright colors on the visor. Use colorful glitter glue on the rim.

**"IMPORTANT THINGS" BOOKLET:** Allow the child to choose pieces of colored construction paper that have been cut in squares. Staple or tie the booklets together with a punched hole and yarn. The title page can say IMPORTANT THINGS and the child can draw, color, or trace words or pictures (or glue pictures from magazines) to each page inside their booklet. Tell the child to glance through their book throughout the week to remember the IMPORTANT THINGS in their lives.



# JESUS IN THE HOME OF MARY AND MARTHA. LUKE 10:38-42



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