

**When Relationships Collide**  
**Lesson 1: Even Christians Collide**  
**Lesson Text: Luke 10:38-42**

**Background scripture:** Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (John 11:1-4 NKJV)

**Question:** *What is the silliest argument you've ever been a part of?*

**Luke 10:38**

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

**Luke 10:39-40**

39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

***Distracted (v. 40)*** *The Greek word meant pulled or dragged away. It described someone to busy, or overburdened.*

**Luke 10:41-42**

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

***Worried and upset (v. 41)*** *the first word was used by Jesus to describe the kind of anxious concern a person might have for food or clothing rather than trusting the Lord to provide (Matt. 6:25-34). The second word literally meant stirred up or troubled.*

***Needed (v. 42)*** *That which is a requirement, a requisite a necessity.*

**Application Questions**

- Which sister do you most relate to? Why?
- How can our responsibilities sometimes become a source of conflict?
- When was a time you had to choose between studying the bible and accomplishing work that needed to be done?
- What must we consider when you are deciding between good, better, and best?



## **Live It Out**

The next time an argument arises, step back to see the bigger perspective. Let's choose according to Jesus' priorities!

- **Identify what's important.** Evaluate a conflict, looking for what each party considers important.
- **Reorder your priorities.** Your stance in a conflict may be good and valid, but it may need to take a temporary backseat to a greater priority.
- **Take a half-day retreat.** Do nothing but "sit at the feet of Jesus" in prayer and bible reading. You will gain a fresh perspective on your other priorities.