

Hospitality: Mary & Martha

1. In the dictionary, the word “hospitality” is found between “hospital” - a place of healing and “hospice”, a place of shelter. Our homes are meant to be places of shelter and healing, havens of rest. **Discuss**
2. Romans 12:13 *Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.* When you say, “you’ll have to come for a meal sometime,” do you really mean it? **Why is it so easy to overlook hospitality ?**
3. "A lack of hospitality may be because we're embarrassed about our house, or our lack of ability in the kitchen, or the behavior of our children". **Do you agree? What other things may you be embarrassed about?**
4. Don't get "hospitality" confused with "entertaining". Hospitality is opening our home to people. Entertaining is showing off our house and cooking ability. Hospitality focuses on the other person and the Lord. Entertaining, centres on self & wants compliments. **Discuss**
5. Hospitality is also a gift, some people are so relaxed & natural, it appears effortless. Do you know people like this? Would you rather eat out or entertain or be entertained in someone's home?
6. A story from Luke 10:38-42 teaches us about two different types of behaviour and how Jesus feels about us. Are you a Mary or a Martha? **Do you think there is a need for both types of personality?**
7. Richard Foster wrote: *"Our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in "muchness" and "manyness" he will rest satisfied."* **Are you replacing relationship with activity? Are you serving God at top speed, but seldom just loving Him?**
8. What do you do when you want to get intimate with God and overflow with His presence?
9. Whatever comes between God and us is an idol. What currently distracts you from enjoying the presence of God - career, business, ministry, family, investments, sport...? Invite God back onto centre stage in your life.