

# THE **LONGWAY** ROUND

## 3. Only One Thing

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Luke 10.38-42

**41** *'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'*

- Mary crossed into 'Man Space', adopting the position of a serious disciple. What do you think caused her to take this socially radical step? Do you think Jesus invited her, or do you think she took the initiative herself, knowing what kind of man he was?
- Martha could have followed her sister's example, seeing Jesus was allowing it, but instead she concentrated on her chores and busyness. Do you feel too busy to devote time and space to listening to Jesus and drawing close to him?
- v42. *'Mary has chosen the better part'*. When it comes to intimacy with Jesus, do you feel like you're enjoying the 'Main Course', or just nibbling on starters? What does *'it will not be taken away from her'* mean?
- For you to do something like the **M-Plan** (15 minutes//15 days) what would it take? What time do you need to set aside? What space must you create? What will be the challenges and what do you hope to get out of it?
- What's most surprising about this story is not that Jesus would allow a woman to study to become like him, but that it's possible for any of us to become like Jesus. He said it was her choice, not his. How does this story inspire you and what does it make you want to do?

Big Idea: 'Choosing to spend time with Jesus and become like him is life's Main Course. It satisfies and fills you up so you can do everything else as well.'

Pray for one another in twos and threes. Pray for the inspiration and desire to choose intimacy with Jesus ahead of the busyness of life. Pray that God would be close to you as you look to give time and space to reading Scripture and praying. Pray for a depth of experience of God's presence at this time, particularly for those engaging with the M-Plan.