

Home Group study: week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Jesus Christ: Dangerous Revolutionary

### 5: Disruptive Honesty

Has anybody ever spoken a clear truth to you in a way you wouldn't expect?

How did you feel about it? Did it make any difference to your life?

#### Read: Luke 10: 38-41

Have you ever been in a situation like Martha was in here? How might you expect Jesus to react when you point out your need in a situation like that? And how might you respond to his reaction? Do you think Martha deserved the response she got?

#### Discovery

Verse 38 tells us Jesus and his disciple were 'on their way' and 'came to a village'. They were in fact on that final, fatal, journey to Jerusalem, where Jesus would be arrested, tried, condemned to death and crucified. The village was Bethany, only two miles from Jerusalem, so very near the end of their journey. Might that have had a bearing on the urgency for Martha to sit and spend time with him?

Imagine you have people coming to lunch after church (seems a long time since we were able to do that!). How essential is it that everything is 'just so'? What might be the effect of spending less time in the kitchen and more time having fellowship with your guests before lunch? Is there a point where wanting to bless your guests with a great lunch tips over into wanting to impress them?

In Sunday's sermon we saw how direct — rude even — Jesus was when addressing the Pharisees (*Luke 11: 37 onwards if you want to look at it: Up to v41 gives you a flavour*). How does he 'admonish' Martha? Is his tone different from the way he spoke to the Pharisees? Discuss why this might be. What implication does that have for us when we're called to speak truth into a situation?

#### Understanding

In v41 it is clear that Jesus has seen into Martha's heart. It's not just the dinner preparation that is bothering her. What is the 'one thing that is needed' (*or: 'but few things are needed — or only one', which amounts to much the same thing*)?

What do you think he means by the last sentence of all (*'Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her'*)?

#### Application

This passage is about far more than who is right and wrong and the injustice of who spends all their time slaving in the kitchen. It's about stepping back from our busy-ness and spending more time enjoying the presence of Jesus. Are our lives more or less stressful than Martha's? How can we ensure our lives are full of the 'one thing' that 'is needed'?