

Knowledge of Good and Evil

Jesus was constantly getting himself into trouble over the issue of what is good and what is evil. People in his day were certain they would be able to tell what was evil when they saw it; and they would be able to tell what was good when they saw it. Who of us have been *trained* by God himself, through his Word and by his Spirit – who of us knows for sure what is *good* and what is *evil* (Heb 5:14)?

Let's ask Martha what is good and what is evil. She knows. She's been with Jesus, knows him, loves him. She and her no-good sister Mary have invited him, along with the twelve disciples (Simon Peter included) for dinner in their home. Martha is busy, busy, busy serving with her hands, on her feet, rushing here and there to make sure the meal is prepared properly. *She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said* (Luke 10:39). Sitting at the feet of Jesus means: showing the desire to be a follower of Jesus, to be his disciple. It meant that Mary wanted to be just like Jesus. How can we be like Jesus? We can by taking the time to hold ourselves in a position where we'll be able to hear what Jesus is saying. Hearing: not what we want Jesus to say – but what he is actually saying. Hearing: not what we think Jesus is saying – but what he actually says.

Martha takes this scene in and she thinks: “THIS IS EVIL! I'm working myself into wearisomeness, and my no-good sister is just sitting around listening!” Isn't that true? I mean, when Jesus saves us from our sins, does he not save us so that in response we can serve others? Indeed, we are saved so we can serve. But we can get so distracted by service projects here, and work bees there, that we find ourselves going dry. We find ourselves starving. *[We have] lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow* (Col 2:19).

We can get distracted by many legitimate and good things that God has created and given us to enjoy. Think of the parable of the wedding banquet. What was keeping those who were invited away from the Groom, the King's son? “... *they all began to make excuses... a field... five yoke of oxen... “I just got married”* (Luke 14:18-20). What's so evil about a field, or oxen, or getting married? NOTHING, unless they keep us away from the realization that God is with us, that Christ is in us, that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us!