



Oct. 23, 2024

At yesterday's bible study, the 5th episode contained the story of Mary and Martha. Quite a bit of discussion ensued with some not understanding why Jesus rebuked Martha who was working hard to serve her guests while Jesus was teaching. I, myself, felt bad for Martha in that her guests needed to be served, and she was getting no help from her sister Mary. Why could Jesus not have invited her to sit with them and to leave her toils? Here is an article that I found online. This story is intriguing.

The Hidden Surprise in the Story of Mary and Martha

Newbreak Church

Luke 10:38-42 contains a famous narrative involving Jesus, Mary, and Martha. This story is often used to talk about priorities; usually saying something to the effect that we should not be distracted with tasks (like Martha) and miss out on being with Jesus (like Mary). While this is true, there is more to the story. There is a "shock" or surprise in the story that Luke wanted us to see!

Before disclosing what really is going on in the passage, let's unveil the kind of context that is key here: cultural context.

Let's acknowledge that everything (literally everything!) is culturally mediated. This means that every truth we adhere to or communicate is filtered through a cultural lens.

The truth at the heart of any biblical passage can be transferred and applied to us today, but we have to understand the meaning of any passage through the cultural milieu it is preserved in. For this moment, simply understand that we cannot escape everything being communicated through cultural context, but we can learn to understand the cultural context of the speaker, and understand our own context, and then build a bridge between the two.

Let's consider a modern example. Let's say you lived in a third-world country with no connection to anything going on in America. If someone asked you if you ever hoped to see the "Super Bowl" you might be confused. You might even picture a really big bowl! But that is missing the point because the Super Bowl is something that is understood in a social and cultural context. Everything from the idioms we say (like "it's raining cats and dogs") to the events we participate in involves a culturally conditioned communication lens.

So, what does all of this have to do with Jesus's interaction with Mary and Martha?

Let's look at the passage.

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. 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!" 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.” (Luke 10:38-42, NIV)

Consider the Jewish context of the passage. Why would the underlined part be significant? You see, in the Jewish world of the first century, it was only the men who would be a disciple of a Rabbi.

Now, you might be asking yourself: “Where does he see the word ‘disciple’? It only says she sat at the Lord’s feet and was listening to what he said.” Exactly! That could accurately be interpreted as: “Mary was posturing herself as a disciple before the Lord.”

Paul even refers to himself in a similar way when he said he was trained “at the feet of Gamaliel” ([Acts 22:3](#)). Most people would have sat in chairs, but disciples (if their Rabbi was present) would sit at their Rabbi’s feet. It was a posture of humility and even was a way of declaring to those around them that this person is who you are learning from. Luke brilliantly captures Mary’s posture in this part of the narrative. This was what made Mary’s action so shocking to Martha and even the men around her! It was going against the cultural norms of the day. Yet, Jesus seemed to have received her. And that is not surprising. We know Jesus had women *disciples* and there were even women *apostles* (e.g. Junia is referred to as an “apostle” in [Romans 16:7](#)). Nevertheless, this was an astounding feature of Jesus’s ministry. That is why Luke records Jesus saying: “Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken from her.”

Mary’s desire to be a disciple will not be robbed by the imperfect cultural norms of the day. Fascinating! And traversing the cultural context aided in our comprehension of the passage.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello Churches in Etobicoke!

You, your church members, friends and neighbours are invited to this free Community Workshop! See the attachment for registration & other details. Light refreshments. Play area for toddlers & young children.

You are invited to:

WHAT: Complete and Walkable Neighbourhoods in Etobicoke

A community workshop to envision . . . and all-round happier ways to live in beautiful Etobicoke.

WHERE? St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 3819 Bloor St. West at Kipling Ave – Beside Six Points Plaza

WHEN? Sat. October 26, 2024, from 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Presented by Etobicoke Climate Action in connection with:

- ECULINKS Etobicoke
- Toronto West KAIROS
- Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative
- Friends of the Etobicoke Greenway
- The Etobicoke Voice

Thank you on behalf of the organizing committee!

Cora Dusk

ECULINKS Etobicoke

A Fall Devotional Update: UPDATE!!!

A **new** edition of **These Days** (October/November/December), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (September/October/November) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.



“Soup by Dave” Luncheon

Outreach will be hosting our third “Soup by Dave” luncheon on Thursday, October 24th at 11:30 am in the downstairs hall. Chef Dave Taylor will be preparing minestrone soup for the lunch and will demonstrate how to make it for us. Every guest will receive a copy of his recipe. We are very pleased to have “Chef Dave” share his culinary talents with us and know that he will provide us with another lively presentation and time to ask questions about the soup. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the front foyer. Please plan to attend and invite your friends to join you. Free Will Offerings will be gratefully accepted.



Pastor Eric has a spare bike (the one with the brown handles) which he would like to give away to a member of the congregation who may want it, or who may know of someone who could use it. Let Pastor Eric know if you are interested.

Coffee/Tea Sign - Up is Here Again



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.
October – Outreach Team

Fall Bible Study

Our fall Bible Study takes place on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM and will run until Nov. 12. Our topic will be the series The Chosen - Season 4 which will take us up to the ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This season is awesome, as I have already seen all 8 episodes and each one is better than the last. Come one come all. You will not be disappointed.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.

* **Shelia Thomas'** 3-year-old grandson, Carter, was admitted to Sick Kids Hospital.

* **Shirley Pollack** is going to be having surgery on Nov. 4th and is feeling quite lonely now as she awaits her procedure.

* Please keep in your prayers the following: Ed L., Bob N., Lenore C., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., Margaret M's brother, Simon, the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's son, Ryan, Anna C. and family and Gordon F. Please keep these folks, and indeed everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.

Sing! Etobicoke, Encore, 2024 Fall Schedule

Date	Start Time	Location	Workshop Theme	Registration Link
28-Oct-24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Hallowe'en, Ghosts & Spirits	F24SE3
04-Nov-24	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Lean on Me	F24SE4
11-Nov-24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Remembrance	F24SE5
18-Nov-24	9:30 AM	GV	In the Twilight	F24SE6
25-Nov-24	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Guest Day (Chihiro?)	F24SE7
02-Dec-24	9:30 AM	GV	Looking Forward	F24SE8
09-Dec-24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Holiday Guest Day (Men Aloud)	F24SE9
16-Dec-24	9:30 AM	GV	Holiday	F24SE10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Thursday, Oct. 24 @ 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
- * Tuesday, Oct. 29 @ 11:00 AM Bible Study “The Chosen” - Season 4 – Episode 6
- * Monday, Oct. 28 @ 9:30 AM – Sing! Etobicoke @ NPCC

- * Thursday, Oct. 24 @ 11:30 AM – Another “Soup by Dave” event!
- * Sunday, Nov. 3 @ 10:30 AM - Remembering Tree Service
- * Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 10:30 – Remembrance Day Service
- * Friday, Nov. 15 @ TBA – Chef Keith Hoare and his students at TCI will be serving dinner at Graceview.
- * Friday, Nov. 29 – Deck the Halls
- * Monday, Dec. 2 @ 12:30 – Advent lunches begin. (There will be a sign up for this)

*Our services are now live streamed. Go to the church’s website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to “follow.”

Prayer Roster

Lay Readers

Welcome and Announcements

Oct. 27	Ethel Waite	Anna Cherniak	Nancy McPherson
Nov. 3	Susan Chopp	Nancy Green	Lynne Bishop
Nov. 10	Nancy McPherson	Harry Learoyd	Susan Chopp
Nov. 17	Eric Lee	Chris Parr	Kathy Twynam
Nov. 24	Kathy Twynam	Susan Chopp	Bob Twynam
Dec. 1	Eric Lee	Bob Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Dec. 8	Chris Parr	Jean Fox	Susan Chopp
Dec. 15	Margaret Munene	Maureen Screen	Lynne Bishop
Dec. 22	Eric Lee	Margaret Munene	Bob Twynam
Dec. 29	Bob Twynam	Georgena Engineer	Kathy Twynam

WEEKLY GIGGLE

Where do we come from?

A little girl asked her mother, "Where did people come from?"

Her mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and that's how all mankind was made."

A couple of days later she asked her father the same question.

The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, which the human race evolved from."

The confused little girl returned to her mother and said, "Mommy, how is it possible that you told me that we were created by God, and Daddy said we came from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: “FYI the Graceview website page below has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview”.

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

OCTOBER

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study	2	3 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM	4	5
6 *Communion *Membership Class 1	7 Sing Etobicoke @NPCC	8 Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11:00 * Craft Club – 11:00	9	10 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM	11	12
13 Thanksgiving Sunday Membership Class 2	14	15 Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11:00	16	17 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	18	19
20 Rev. Jan Hieminga	21 Sing Etobicoke @GV	22 Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11:00	23	24 *Service @ CPP 2:00 PM *Soup by Dave 11:30 Choir – 6:30 PM	25	26
27 Tim Connor	28 Sing Etobicoke @NPCC	29 Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11:00	30	31 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM		

*CPP = Centennial Park Place