

Martha Monologue

Good, Better, Best

At Rise: Martha enters carrying a large bowl covered with a towel so no one can see what is inside)

Good, better, best. How many of you know the difference between good and evil? *(Can ask for examples from the audience)* That's a good thing to know. But it is not enough to know what is good. We have to know the difference between good, better and best.

One day we were having company over. And not just any company. We were having Jesus. I'm rushing around, trying to get everything done. What is my sister Mary doing? Kicking back, sitting around, listening to the conversation. Meanwhile I have 20 thousand things to see to do, like cooking *(indicates bowl and then puts it down)*, cleaning, baking, washing the feet and.... You get the idea.

Jesus is saying "'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; ... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

So, I go in and say "Lord Jesus, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus looks right at me. And he says, "'Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is **better**, and it will not be taken away from her."

I don't get it. Aren't I giving him something to eat? Giving him something to drink? Inviting him in? What does Jesus mean – Mary has chosen what is better?

Then I remembered hearing Jesus say "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God. I should have been listening to Jesus, the one who called himself the bread of heaven – that's Jesus! Here I was thinking about physical bread, which was a **good** thing. Thinking about the word of God – that was a **better** thing to do.

Good, better, best. It is good to do good, but it is best to do what's best.

Back to the day Jesus came. I left the bread, went and sat down next to Mary and began listening to Jesus. I'm glad I finally chose the best thing. Learning about God. I became convinced Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God who came into the world. I said that to everybody, the time he came to raise my brother Lazarus from the dead. *(Takes Bible out of bowl)*

Now I know you can't have the person Jesus come to your house. You can't sit at Jesus feet the way I did and listen to him speak. But you have his words in your Bible. *(Takes towel off bowl and Bible out of bowl)*

You can read the words of Jesus anytime – that is the best thing. You can read aloud to your friends, brothers and sisters who are too young to read for themselves.

Good, better, best. (*Holding up Bible*) Choose what is best.