



# **Sunday Morning Sermon**

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# Learned Christian



# Introduction



- **For some weeks, we have been considering the overarching subject the Learned Christian.**
- **The several messages and reflections we have heard on the subject shows that the concept of being a Learned Christian is very important for us as Christians in living a productive spiritual life.**
- **Considerable amount of time have been spent on this subject of being a Learned Christian because of its significance.**
- **There are many ways God has prepared for us to become Learned Christians. This could be through fellow Christians, life's experiences, sermons or teachings or Christian books and literatures we read.**
- **However, the focus of today's message is one of the key ways we can become Learned Christians – Learning at the master's feet with sub-theme – Learn At The Master's Feet.**
- **When we talk about learning from the Master's feet, we are looking at learning directly from Jesus Christ Himself through the Holy Spirit and spending time alone with Him.**



## Learn At The Master's Feet



# Text 1: Luke 10:38 - 42



**38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.**

**39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.**

**40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."**

**41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,**

**42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."**

# Text 2: John 6:45 NLT



## John 6:45 NLT

- **As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.**

# Objectives



- **Point out how we can become a more learned Christian by learning at the Master's feet**
- **Highlight what it takes to learn at the feet of Jesus Christ the Master**
- **What we stand to gain by learning at the Master's Feet (Jesus Christ)**



# Background



- **We pick up the story from where Jesus left Jerusalem and went to a certain village where Martha and Mary lives. They live in Bethany and according to bible exponents, this is about 2 miles from Jerusalem.**
- **According to His custom, Jesus Christ do not travel alone. An educated conclusion is that He went into Martha's house with some of His disciples.**
- **When Jesus Christ started to talk or teach, Mary sat at his feet, wanting to learn and Martha decided to entertain the guests who had walked for about 2 miles to visit them.**
- **She was distracted and anxious because she worried about could quickly she could provide some refreshments for the guests.**
- **The picture is that whilst Jesus Christ was teaching, Mary sat down at His feet to learn, whilst Martha was going up and down trying to prepare something for the guests, this was too much for her and she had to call Jesus to talk to ray to come and help her.**



# Background



- **She then asked Jesus a fair question, ‘Don’t you care, is it wrong that Mary left me to provide and prepare the refreshment alone?’**
- **The question became a teachable moment for Martha and it should be a teachable moment for us all today.**
- **It was not a rebuke but a teaching moment for Martha and for us Christians who are seeking to be a more learned Christian.**
- **Jesus Christ’s response vs 41 - But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary; for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”**
- **Based on Gary Chapman’s book, the 5 Love languages, one can conclude that Martha’s love language was Act of Service and Mary’s Quality Time.**
- **According to Jesus’ response to Martha, there comes a point where spending quality time at the Master’s feet is the necessary thing to do and not act of service.**



# Who is a learned Christian



# A. Who is a learned Christian



- **Proper analysis of the bible, shows that believers are expected to be Learned Christians.**

**A learned Christian is not the one who is:**

- **A professor of theological and ecclesiastical studies, or**
- **Can quote the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation**

**Learned Christians are the believers:**

- **That have assimilated the teachings and principles of Jesus Christ and applies them in their lives - they are doers of God's word.**
- **That are knowledgeable about the word of God and applies it for the betterment of the humanity and the glory of God.**
- **That have exposed themselves to sound spiritual teaching and doctrines. They are not spiritually immature, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men...**

**Charles Spurgeon - A man cannot be saved unless he has become a learner in the school of Christ, and a learner, too, in a practical sense, being willing to practice what he learns**



# What it means to learn at the master's feet



# B. What it means to learn at the master's feet



**The Master's feet is the place where we are alone with Jesus Christ to learn from Him. This place is referred to as the 'Place of Aloneness'.**

**It is a place:**

- **where we have intimate communion with Jesus Christ through prayer, reading of God's word, praising and worshiping Him.**
- **where we listen to Jesus Christ through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit or reading of God's word. We capture what the Master is saying to us (journaling).**
- **where we have solitude i.e. spend time alone with Jesus Christ free from all distraction and disturbance.**
- **Solitude is the discipline that calls us to consciously pull away from everything else in our lives, including the company of other people, for the purpose of giving our full and undivided attention to Jesus Christ.**

**Quotes:**

- **Rick Warren - You miss the gifts of God when you fail to get alone with God**

## B. What it means to learn at the master's feet



- **The 17<sup>th</sup> Century Philosopher Blaise Pascal said, “I have discovered that all the unhappiness of men arises from one single fact, in that they cannot stay quietly in their own chamber.”**
- **One of the greatest challenges of 21st Century Christians is to find undistracted time and sit still in the presence of the Lord.**
- **There are so many things that we engage ourselves in that stops us from finding time to spend in the Master’s presence – Jesus Christ.**
- **Don Whitney in his writing on Spiritual Disciple, pointed out that one of the challenges of technological advancement to Christians is that it is a greater temptation to avoid quietness.” And so, many of us “need to realize the addiction we have to noise”.**
- **If we do not practice to learn at the Master’s feet, it may impact on our ability to be Learned Christian and grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord.**

### **Quote:**

- **Practicing the presence of God - Brother Lawrence related that we should establish ourselves in a sense of God's Presence by continually conversing with Him. There is a need to spend time alone with Jesus Christ.**



# What it takes to learn at the Master's feet – Jesus Christ



# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet



## 1. Desire - It takes desire to learn from Jesus Christ

- **Whatever we desire, we find the time to do it.**
- **From the passage we read, one can conclude that it was Mary's desire to learn from Jesus Christ whilst Martha's desire was to entertain the guests.**
- **She was keen to learn rather than provide refreshments for the guests.**
- **We can understand the intention of Martha to want to be hospitable and entertain Jesus Christ with His entourage. According to Jesus custom, he does not travel alone, may be He had some of His disciples with Him.**
- **What Martha was doing is not bad. At the point where she should have spent quality time with Jesus, she chose to serve. Doing the right thing at the wrong time.**
- **We must have the desire and the hunger to learn so that we can become a more proficient Learned Christian.**





# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet

## 1. Desire - It takes desire to learn from Jesus Christ

- **Strong desire to learn allows us to take advantage of the opportunities provided to learn from the Master. Mary took the advantage to learn from Jesus Christ - she avails herself of the present opportunity to hear His teaching, and inform herself in those things which are essential for spiritual growth.**
- **The bible says that Blessed are those who thirst and hunger for the things of God, for they shall be filled.**
- **Martha made a complain to Jesus regarding Mary. She's supposed to be helping me - and she came to him and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?**
- **Martha spoke to Jesus Christ hoping that He is in the position to tell Mary to join her preparing the refreshments for the guests. The question shows Martha's assumption that Jesus Christ will acknowledge our view that entertaining the guests is more desirable than learning at the Master's feet.**



# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet

## 2. Discipline - It takes discipline to learn from Jesus Christ

**This is an important quality needed to learn at the Master's feet.**

**There are lists of important things that may come our way to distract us from learning at the Master's feet.**

**Martha was distracted by all the things she needed to entertain the guests.**

**There are many things that may seek to distract us from spending time alone and learning from Jesus Christ the Master.**

**The key question for us to answer is what is distracting us from sitting at the Master's feet to learn – is it:**

- **Technology**
- **Television**
- **Telephone**
- **Church business/activities**



# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet

## 2. Discipline – It takes discipline to learn from Jesus Christ

**We need discipline to be stay focus and be able to spend time alone in the presence of the Lord.**

**Discipline is needed to fend off the distraction. It will take discipline to:**

- **Set out time to sit at the Master's presence**
- **Focus on the necessary thing (most important thing)**
- **Focus the mind, because there will be many thoughts running through our minds**
- **Focus on learning**

**In our study of Culture of Discipline in the book Good to Great, we learnt that - Disciplined people who engage in disciplined thought, takes disciplined action.**

# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet



**3. Determination – It takes determination to learn from Jesus Christ**

**There are many important things that will fight for attention. It takes determination to do the needful or that which is necessary**

**Verse 42. "One thing is needful" or "One thing necessary" or "The good part" - Mary has chosen that good part, i.e. learning at the Master's feet.**

**As Christians, it is expected of us to learn from the Master's feet.**

**Many of us think that been busy for the Lord and doing church business is more important than learning at the Master's feet.**

**It takes great determination to yank ourselves away from the things distracting from learning from the Master's feet.**

**To learn from the Master will require a level of intentionality. Mary's intention was to learn from Jesus Christ when He entered their house. Her thought was, let me feed from the Master first before feeding the Master.**



# C. What it takes to learn at the Master's feet

## 4. Diligence - It takes diligence to learn from the feet of Jesus Christ.

- Learning from the Master is not a one off experience but something that needs to be done regularly.
- Diligence is making the effort to do things, hence we need to make every effort to learn at the Master's feet by practicing the place of aloneness.
- To get the desired impact of spending time alone with Jesus Christ, we must commit to the important undertaking of learning at the Master's feet.



# What we stand to gain from learning at the Master's Feet



# What we stand to gain from learning from the Master's Feet



- **Learning from Jesus Christ the Master is one of the greatest experience of a Christian. There so many benefits that comes from learning at the Master's feet.**
- 1. Revelation**
- **There are certain things that cannot be taught by the reading books or from other Christians but by revelations that comes from spending time alone at the Master's feet.**
- **Illumination that comes from the reading of God's word - 1 Corinthians 2:13 New Living Translation - When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.**
- **In His light we see light – Psalm 36:9b.**

# What we stand to gain from learning from the Master's Feet



## 2. Regeneration

- **This is the spiritual renewal that we experience as Christians when we spend time alone with Master.**
- **In the presence of the Lord we are transformed from glory to glory.**
- **There is transformation that takes place when we spend time alone with the Master.**
- **We are also transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.**
- **In the place of aloneness (at the master's feet) we have able to learn things from Him that transforms us into better Christians.**
- **At the master's feet our minds are also transformed – this is where the unlearning Pastor Mbakwe spoke about also happens.**



# What we stand to gain from learning from the Master's Feet



## 3. Revitalisation

- **At the Master's feet, we are revitalised by what we learn.**
- **Additionally, at the Master's feet, power from on high is released into us.**
- **Ephesians 3:16 – We are strengthened in the inner by the Holy Spirit.**
- **By the time we come out of the place of aloneness and learning at the Master's feet, we are refreshed.**

# What we stand to gain from learning from the Master's Feet



## 4. Re-evaluation

- Learning at the Master's feet, gives us the opportunity to re-evaluate ourselves.
- In the place of aloneness, we must, from time to time, honestly consider and thoroughly examine ourselves.
- Learning from the Master's feet helps us to examine our spiritual lives and re-evaluate them.
- At the Master's feet we are able to think more and learn more about ourselves and our relationship with the the Master.
- Brother Lawrence noted that when we directly confront ourselves in this manner, we will understand why we are subject to all kinds of misery and problems. We will realize why we are subject to changes and fluctuations in our health, mental outlook, and dispositions.



## Conclusion



# Learning at the Master's Feet (Expected outcome)



## **As Christians:**

- i. We will seek to learn at the Master's feet.**
- ii. We will do whatever it takes to learn at the master's feet by desiring to spend time alone with Jesus Christ the Master, being disciplined, determined and diligent at learning at Jesus feet.**
- iii. As we spent time learning at the Master's feet, we all enjoy the blessings and benefits of learning at the Master's feet.**

# Conclusion – Cost of learning at the Master's Feet



## Quote:

- **Our end goal should be what Brother Lawrence - Let all our efforts be to know God. The more one knows Him, the greater one desires to know Him.**

# Conclusion – Cost of learning at the Master's Feet



## Quote:

- **What we learn at the Master's feet in the place of aloneness, will enhance what we do publicly in service for Jesus Christ the Master.**