

Perspective

Our actions always reveal how we truly treat others, no matter what we say. Jesus' warning in Matthew 7:15–20 reminds us that people are known “by their fruit”, meaning their actions, not just their words. This theme runs through both the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10) and the prophetic warning in Amos 8.

In Luke's account, Martha is busy serving while Mary sits listening to Jesus. Though both women love Jesus and offer faithful responses, Martha becomes frustrated and complains, embarrassing Mary in front of their guest. Jesus gently corrects Martha - not for her work - but for her anxious, distracted attitude and how she treats others in her frustration. Her actions, though well-intentioned, reflect a misplaced focus and a lack of love in the moment.

In Amos 8, God rebukes a society that has lost its moral compass. The people keep religious observances but can't wait to return to business - exploiting the poor and cheating for profit. Their hearts are no longer aligned with God's justice and compassion. God declares He will not forget how they've treated others.

Together, these passages challenge us to examine our attitudes. Even faithful service can be tainted if it leads us to mistreat others. When love is lacking, when we focus more on tasks or gain than on people, then we miss the heart of God. True discipleship is revealed in how we treat others: with justice, mercy, humility, and love.

As Micah 6:8 says, the Lord requires us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. This means our faith must be lived out in loving relationships - not just in words, rituals, or duties. When our hearts reflect God's love, our actions will naturally follow, showing that we belong to Him.