

## Two ways of understanding time

“Our friends in the West often find us in Africa a little weird when it comes to our concept of time. Some people deride Africans by wanting to portray them as perpetual late comers, which is not true. What Africans are not, is enslaved to the **chronological** concept of time which is about the watch and the diary. Our concept of time is **kairological**.

(Revd. Prince Dibeela, URC Minister from Botswana)

*Kairos* is one of the words for ‘time’ in the Greek of the New Testament. It has the sense of;

‘in due time’, ‘at the right time’, ‘the decisive moment’, or ‘a moment of crisis / opportunity’

## Next week

We will conclude our Lent series by looking at one of the many parables in which Jesus uses a banquet or feast as an image for the kingdom of God—and, in this story, we will see who is invited, and who comes.

The Bible readings will be:

Isaiah 25. 6-9

Ephesians 2. 8-18

**Luke 14. 15-24**

## The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond

### Lent Course 2011 At The Table

#### Week 4 Sunday 3rd April

#### 4. Feeding on the word of God; Mary and Martha

Exodus 2. 1-10

Colossians 3. 12-17

**Luke 10. 38-42**

## The Course Prayer

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his friends  
as they gathered at the table  
and broke bread together:  
open the eyes of our faith  
so that we may see all things  
in the light of your love,  
shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Getting Started**

If you are going to an appointment of meeting, are you more likely to arrive early, or late?

If you have a day to do as you wish, are you more likely to plan carefully what you will do, or to respond spontaneously to what the day brings?

### **Hearing the Word**

Read: Luke 10. 38-42

As you read, bear in mind the attitudes to women in the culture of that time, and their place in society.

### **Exploring the Word**

Take some time to reflect on this story from the point of view of:

Mary

Martha

Jesus

What do you think they might like to say to each other (in addition to what we have in the passage)?

### **Living the Word**

If Jesus included a woman amongst those he taught, in spite of the attitudes of many people at that time, what challenges might that raise for us today?

What does this passage have to say to us about our attitudes to time, and priorities?

(see the comments over the page about two different ways of understanding time)

### **Praying the Word**

Take some time to reflect in quiet together, and to offer our thoughts and discussions in prayer.

A prayer based on this theme and reading:

Living God,  
as Jesus welcomed Mary to sit with him,  
and to listen to his teaching;  
so may we recognise your presence,  
and be attentive to your word for us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.