

# Martha and Mary

Luke 10:38-42

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(Luke 10:38)

## Luke 10:38

Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

# Martha and Mary

- They welcomed Jesus into their home (Luke 10:38)
  - **Not without risk (John 12:9-11; Mark 14 & Matt. 26; John 11:3)**

## John 12:9-11

The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

## Mark 14:3-9

While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a **woman** with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. ... 9 "Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what **this woman** has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

# John 11:1-2

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 And it was that **Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.**

# Martha and Mary

- They welcomed Jesus into their home (Luke 10:38)
  - Not without risk (John 12:9-11; Mark 14 & Matt. 26; John 11:3)
  - **Not without reward (John 11:1-5)**



# John 11:5

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

# Mary

- **She sat at Jesus' feet (Luke 10:39)**

# Luke 10:39

And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

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- **This was a way of life for her (John 12:1-8)**

# John 12:1-8

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, ... 2 There they made Him a supper; .... 3 Then **Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.** And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. ... 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

# Martha

- **She was busy serving (Luke 10:40)**



# Luke 10:40

But Martha was distracted with much  
serving, ...

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## John 12:1-3

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; **and Martha served**, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.

# Martha and Mary: Two Perspectives

- Should we spend our time...
  - ...in service for Jesus OR
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  - For a household
  - For a congregation
  - For Mary and Martha

# Martha

- She was busy serving (Luke 10:40)
- She thought Jesus was worthy of every second of her time in service
- She was right!
- This was a way of life for her (John 12:2)
- **On this occasion, she got her priorities confused**

## Luke 10:40

**But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."**

# Jesus

- **Gives a tender rebuke (Luke 10:41)**

## Luke 10:41-42

And Jesus answered and said to her,  
"**Martha, Martha**, you are worried and  
troubled about many things. 42 But one  
thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that  
good part, which will not be taken away  
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- **Diagnoses the problem**

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- Gives a tender rebuke (Luke 10:41)
- Diagnoses the problem
- **Defended Mary's devotion**

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# Martha & Mary

Martha in the kitchen, serving with her hands;  
Occupied FOR Jesus, with her pots and pans  
Loving Him, yet fevered, burdened to the brim, --  
Careful, troubled Martha, occupied FOR Him.

Mary on the footstool, eyes upon her Lord;  
Occupied WITH Jesus, drinking in His word.  
This the one thing needful, all else strangely dim:  
Loving, resting Mary, occupied WITH Him.

# Martha & Mary, cont.

So may we like Mary, choose the better part.

Resting in His presence – hands and feet and heart;  
Drinking in His wisdom, strengthened with His grace  
Waiting for His summons, eyes upon His face.

When it comes, we're ready, spirit, will, and nerve;

Mary's heart to worship, Martha's hands to serve;  
This the rightful order, as our lamps we trim, --  
Occupied WITH Jesus, then occupied FOR Him!

-- Lois Reynolds Carpenter

# What about Me?

- Is Jesus welcome in my home?
- What am I distracted and worried about?
- Am I attending to the one necessary thing?
- Where do I fall on the communion vs. service issue?
- Am I treasuring up the things which can never be taken away from me?