

Mary & Martha - The Gift of Learning

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-46, 12:1-8

- Mary and Martha are sisters and they are friends and disciples of Jesus.
- Martha's home was used as a base for Jesus in Bethany.
- Lazarus was their brother who was raised from the dead by Jesus.

Mary - sitting at the feet of Jesus listening and learning.

Martha - there is so much to do to make sure that you are taken care of. Distracted by all the preparations (vs. 40).

Don't you care that Mary is not helping me?

What exactly is Mary doing?

It is a classic description of a rabbinic disciple.

As a student you gathered with others around your Rabbi and learned.

Jesus was unlike other Rabbi's.

He welcomed women, Gentiles, and Samaritans to sit and learn.

Luke 10:39

Luke 8:35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Luke 17:16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Listened to his teaching -> We can not miss the importance of this phrase. The Greek imperfect tense of "hearing" means that Mary is absorbing Jesus' word.

vs. 41, Martha, Martha

There are many things that are causing you to worry and be upset.

- Doing is getting in the way of being.
- If we live in the reality of faith peace is the result. Why? Because faith allows life to be put in perspective concerning salvation, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus, and God's care and provision.
- If we live in the ebbs and flows of our flesh, stress is the result. Multiple concerns compete for our attention and create instability.
- If we absorb Jesus' word it calms our spirit and focuses our attention. It is the one thing that is necessary.

In this moment Mary has chosen the one thing.

The gospel rearranges our priorities.

To be a disciple of Jesus means that the gospel sets our priorities.

Her delight found in provision shouldn't get in the way of discipleship.

In fact, her purpose found at the feet of Jesus will fuel her love of hospitality.

Question: How often in your every day do you feel at peace? Why or why not? What are the things or people that help you put life into perspective? How filled is your life with the "one thing that is necessary"?

How has the gospel re-arranged your priorities? If not, why not?

Have you allowed your giftedness to become a burden rather than an expression of worship?

2 Incredible Take aways

1. Mary has not betrayed her femininity by learning from Jesus. She also has not taken a seat away from a man. There is room for both. At the feet of Jesus, both women and men are gathered, learning, and empowered to fully live the gospel. Truly counter-cultural (Culture did not dictate Jesus's receptivity of Mary or Martha).
2. Jesus has declared, only one thing is needful. That one thing is himself. Jesus has placed himself above Torah.

Read **John 11:1-46**

vs. 5, Jesus loved this family.

vs. 21-27, Martha's words to Jesus

Martha has grasped the theology of who Jesus is and taken seriously what Jesus has said about his death, burial, and resurrection.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

vs. 32, Mary's words to Jesus

She fell at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus meets Mary and Martha in their grief.

Jesus knows what he is about to do and doesn't rush Mary through the loss.

Jesus himself weeps.

He is moved over human sorrow and the sadness of death which reveals his compassion.

Question: What reactions do you have to Jesus expressing his grief? Have you embraced the truth that God himself mourns with those who mourn?

What is your attitude concerning death? Do you believe the words of Jesus? (vs. 25-26)

vs. 39, The every practical Martha.

vs. 40, Jesus meets Martha in her doubts. "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

vs. 43, Lazarus, come out.

If Lazarus, then how much more is Jesus able to become the sin substitute so all who believe in his name will experience the victory of his resurrection?

Read **John 12:1-8**

vs. 3, Here Mary is again at the feet of Jesus.

3 recorded occurrences of Mary at the feet of Jesus.

1. She is happy, content, and learning.
2. She is sad and deeply grieved.
3. She is overwhelmed and pondering the implications of Jesus' burial.

The biblical record demonstrates to us as the reader that Mary is understanding Jesus when he speaks of his death and burial in his last week.

The others cannot understand this action. Couldn't the money have been put to a better cause?

Leave her alone. Jesus is greater. Jesus is worth it.

Side note: The apostles were much slower to grasp the meaning of Jesus' words.

Question: When is the last time you have fallen at the feet of Jesus? What does it mean for you to engage in worshipping Jesus? How does your life demonstrate that Jesus is greater and that he is worth it?

In case you were wondering

This is not the same interaction that Jesus had with another woman recorded in Luke 7:36-50

Details differ: In the home of an antagonistic Pharisee named Simon, most likely in Galilee and early in Jesus' ministry. The woman is unnamed and a well known sinner. The Pharisee complained, touched by a sinner. The point centers on love and forgiveness.