

# 7/16/2017 Sermon Notes - Mary of Bethany

- There are as many as 7 women named Mary in the Bible - Mary of Bethany
- This Mary known by who her siblings were (Martha & Lazarus)
  - Luke gives us our first encounter with Mary in Scripture
    - **[Luke 10:38-39 ESV] 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.**
      - The Bible gives us 3 encounters with Mary
        - Always at the feet of Jesus
          - Position of adoration and worship
          - Also the position of a disciple
      - Look at what Mary was doing there
        - V.39 [she] “sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching”
        - Command given to Peter, James, & John by God, referring to Jesus at the mount of transfiguration:
          - **[Matthew 17:5 ESV] 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."**
        - Mary is listening to Jesus, but remember her sister Martha is there too.
    - **[Luke 10:40 ESV] 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."**
      - Jesus was known for his miracles
      - Possibly God's promised deliverer
      - Martha wants to make a great impression
      - But here's Mary, just sitting there listening to him speak
      - Martha is getting behind and she finally gets fed up with Mary
    - **[Luke 10:41-42 ESV] 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."**
      - Jesus didn't get onto Mary
      - He gently showed Martha that she was concerned about lots of things
      - But Mary chose to focus on the only thing that mattered, and he wasn't going to take that away from her
        - What was the one thing?
          - Sitting at the feet of Jesus
          - Listening to Jesus with an open heart / worship
        - Why is it important to listen to Jesus?
          - **[Psalm 25:4-5 ESV] 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**
          - The importance of sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing his words is summed up in this Psalm:

- Show me your ways - different from our ways
- Teach me your paths - different from our paths
- Lead me in Your truth - THE TRUTH
  - The thing that has set God's people apart through history is NOT that believe IN God
  - It is that they believed God
  - In order to do that, you have to hear what He says
  - That's what Mary was doing.
- Martha had missed the point.
  - In fact, we know she was wrong here by the use of the word, "distracted" in vs. 40
    - **40 But Martha was distracted with much serving.**
  - What good things does Satan use to distract us from sitting at the feet of Jesus?
    - Serving Jesus became a distraction in Martha's relationship with Jesus!
      - She was distracted by HER contributions
    - Peter got distracted by an experience with Jesus at the Mt. of transfiguration - God had to tell him to hush and listen
      - He got distracted by HIS plans
  - Mary was exactly right to sit at his feet.
- Notice that Mary didn't say a word:
  - Jesus was speaking and she was soaking it in
  - She didn't even respond to her sister's rebuke
- Here's what we've learned from this first interaction:
  - Mary's heart was to know Jesus, not to do stuff for Him
  - Mary also did the right thing, no matter what everyone else was doing
    - I tell my kids this same thing
    - I believe that the Lord used Mary's obedience to get Martha's attention
      - What do you think Martha did after Jesus told her that Mary "had chosen the correctly, and she hadn't"?
        - Sat right next to Mary to hear Jesus' words
        - Next time we see Martha, she sees the world totally differently
      - Mary had an impact on other people without even saying a word.
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
  - **[John 11:1 ESV] 1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.**
    - Just a few months later
  - **[John 11:3-6 ESV] 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.**
    - The sisters sent a message to Jesus that Lazarus was sick
    - Jesus says that his situation is for the glory of God
    - Specifically because of this, Jesus stays 2 more days where he was, rather than going straight to heal his friend

- **[John 11:17-19 ESV] 17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.**
  - So, when Jesus showed up, Lazarus was dead.
- **[John 11:32 ESV] 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."**
  - Where was she in relation to Jesus?
  - These are the only words that we will see from Mary
  - Two parts to this:
    - Confessing her belief in His ability to heal
    - "Don't understand what you are doing"
- **[John 11:33-34 ESV] 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."**
  - Right before talking to Mary, he had a conversation with Martha
  - Martha had made the same comment that we heard from Mary, and this was Jesus' response:
    - **[John 11:25-27 ESV] 25 Jesus said to her, "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?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."**
    - Did you hear Martha profess her faith in Christ?
      - She's now operating on a deeper level, and I believe it is because she found her way to the feet of Jesus
    - Given what Jesus had said about death for those who believe in Him, do you think Jesus was sad about Lazarus dying?
- **[John 11:35-37 ESV] 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"**
  - These folks were being critical
  - Why was Jesus weeping?
    - Not 100% sure
      - Certainly not in sorry for Lazarus
        - Jesus intended for this to happen and went out of his way to not heal Lazarus
      - Could be this compassion he had for those who were left
      - He could be troubled at how distraught they were
      - Perhaps he was thinking about the condition of the human race, and how sin brought death into the world.
      - Or maybe he was sad about bringing Lazarus back
- **[John 11:38-42 ESV] 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but**

**I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."**

- Jesus says why he is doing what he is about to do.
  - That the people standing around might believe.
- **[John 11:43-46 ESV] 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.**
  - So, Mary witnessed an incredible miracle when Jesus raised her brother
  - She saw the power of God in Christ and several became believers, but her faith was strengthened beyond measure
- Here's what we can learn from this:
  - Even at the lowest point, Mary kept her faith in Jesus
  - She went straight to the feet of Jesus
  - Jesus used this lowest point in her family's life for the Glory of God
- Mary anoints Jesus
  - **[John 12:1-2 ESV] 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.**
    - Timing
      - This is just a few days before Jesus will be arrested and eventually crucified
    - House of Simon the leper
    - Jesus & some of his disciples are there. Martha is helping serve
    - Then Mary does something very unexpected
  - **[John 12:3 ESV] 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**
    - Here's Mark's account of this:
      - **[Mark 14:3 ESV] 3 And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.**
    - Oil and bottle were very expensive
      - Mary wasn't just pouring a little bit out - she poured it on his head and feet.
      - In fact, she couldn't pour it out fast enough, so she broke the neck off of the bottle.
  - **[John 12:4-6 ESV] 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.**
    - Reaction:
      - Matthew tells us "When the disciples saw this, they were indignant"
      - Then evidently, Judas spoke up and acted like he cared about the poor.
      - Notice that Martha's reaction is not recorded
        - (I think she has grown up a lot from that first encounter)
    - How did Mary know to do this?

- She has been sitting at Jesus' feet.
- We know that Jesus had predicted his death a number of times:
  - **[Matthew 20:17-19 ESV] 17 And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, 18 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death 19 and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."**
  - There's a reasonable chance that Jesus said something like this, and she's the only one who took him serious (believed him).
- **[John 12:7-8 ESV] 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."**
  - Jesus once again defends her, and justifies her actions
  - This event is really significant:
    - Jesus mentioned the oil's use for preparing his body for burial
      - Jesus would die on the following Friday and they wouldn't have time to do this before the beginning of the Sabbath
    - Oil is used to anoint kings
      - The next day, Jesus would be going into Jerusalem during the triumphal procession as King
    - Oil is also used to anoint priests
      - He would soon be offering himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, fulfilling his role as the great high priest
  - Matthew captures what Jesus said about Mary: "Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."
  - Take-aways:
    - Acted out of the overflow of her relationship with Jesus, not out of duty
      - Last time, sitting and listening was what she was called to
      - This time, she was called to action
    - She had her priorities right and was used by God



