

Following the Real Jesus:
Mary and Martha

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Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-3, 7-8

Following the Real Jesus: Mary and Martha

Jesus is on a mission:

To lead people into a life changing relationship with Jesus.

To make disciples who will make disciples.

³⁸ While Jesus and his followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house. Luke 10:38

³⁹ Martha had a sister named Mary, who was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. Luke 10:39

⁴⁰ But Martha was busy with all the work to be done. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me." Luke 10:40

⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Luke 10:41

⁴² Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her." Luke 10:42

Martha is important. It's her house. She is busy, she is the manager.

Martha is loved by Jesus. Martha loves Jesus.

Having Jesus as a guest is leaving Martha worried and upset.

Serving to bring out a future outcome. "Sleeplessness with worry"

Martha you are split in many directions.

"Only one thing is important." Can Jesus really be right?

Martha is trying to lead Jesus, not listen to him.

She is labeling herself as serving others, but she is really serving herself.

Her serving is about how she wants to serve, not how Jesus does.

When you only serve Jesus on your own terms you feel like Martha: "Don't you care?"

Why doesn't God answer my prayer?

“Martha, Martha” It’s love, it’s sadness, and it’s an invitation.

Mary: Sitting at Jesus feet, listening. She is under His authority.

She is taking time, or she is giving time?

She is making Jesus her priority, Jesus’ way.

She is submitting.

What difference does it make?

¹ Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. (Lazarus is the man Jesus raised from the dead.) John 12:1

² There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. John 12:2

³ Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet, and then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house. John 12:3

⁷ Jesus answered, “Leave her alone. It was right for her to save this perfume for today, the day for me to be prepared for burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.” John 12:7–8

Loving to serve isn't enough; you need a deep love of God, or you won't stay.

Faith that makes you the underdog is not faith in God. It is faith in outcomes. - Leonard Lee