

Mary & Martha: Two Sisters

- **I. MARY AND MARTHA WERE FROM BETHANY.**
 - Bethany was a thriving town on the back side of the Mount of Olives.
 - It was just a brief journey from Jerusalem.
 - It was the place where Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus lived.
 - Jesus visited them often.
- **II. JESUS WAS INVITED REGULARLY INTO THEIR HOME.**
 - *"...Martha received him into her house." (Luke 10:38)*
 - Their home was His favorite place.
 - How refreshing it must have been to Him to come after a day's weary preaching to rest a while with those whose hearts were ever ready to welcome Him!
 - We too should have Jesus in our home.
 - He should be constantly with us.
 - We should include Him in our every activity.
 - We should have grace at every meal.
 - We should have family devotions.
 - This could include a song, Scripture reading, memorization of the Scriptures, and prayer.
- **III. MARTHA WAS A HARD WORKER.**
 - *"But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me." (Luke 10:40)*
 - Jesus rebuked Martha for criticizing Mary.
 - He was not rebuking her for being a hard worker.
 - Certainly, the fact that we should be alone with Christ and should worship and serve Him does not give us the right to forget our regular duties or to neglect our daily duties.
 - A slothful spirit our Lord does not endure here nor does He wish anyone else to do so.
- **IV. MARY WAS ALONE WITH JESUS.**
 - *."And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." (Luke 10:39)*
 - The thing that Jesus rebuked Martha for was not for what she was doing, but for what she did not do.
 - Mary took time to be alone with Jesus.
 - Certainly in our busy days with our busy schedules each of us should take time to be alone with the Lord.
- **IV. MARTHA CAME TO JESUS IN HER HOUR OF NEED.**
 - In John 11 we have the story of their brother becoming ill and dying.
 - The windows that were once cheerful were now darkened.

- The voices of singing men and singing women were brought low.
 - He whom they had loved had now gone to his home, and the mourners were about the streets.
 - As was the manner among the Jews, many women, friends of Martha and Mary, had assembled to weep and to wail for the dead.
 - They had dressed in mourning garments with ashes on their heads.
 - They threw themselves on their knees on the flat roof of the house wringing their hands and lifting up their voices and filling the night air with shrill and mournful cries.
 - This was the custom of the Jewish people.
 - This was being done at the death of Lazarus.
 - Martha, however, came to Jesus.
 - ***"Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house." (John 11:20)***
 - What is the first thing we do when we become ill or when a loved one becomes ill, before the doctor is ever called?
 - Before assistance is called we should take time to come to Jesus and ask His intervention.
- **VI. MARTHA HAD FAITH.**
- ***"Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." (John 11: 21-22)***
 - Martha had confidence in Jesus, and her faith was vindicated in this dark hour.
 - She knew and believed that with God all things are possible and she hoped that the Saviour might even yet speak the words which would restore her brother to life.
 - May we, as Martha, have faith in the darkest hours!
- **VII. MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS WERE DEAR TO CHRIST**
- ***"Jesus wept." (John 11:35)***
 - This is the shortest verse in the Bible, and yet in many respects it is one of the longest.
 - Why was Jesus weeping?
 - There are many reasons, but one of the main ones was the fact that He was burdened for Mary and Martha.
 - He hated to see them suffer.
 - This shows His love for them. In a few moments He showed His love even more by raising Lazarus from the dead.
- **VIII. JESUS SPENT HIS LAST HOURS WITH MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS.**
- ***"Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised***

from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him." (John 12:1-2)

➤ **IX. MARY GAVE HER BEST TO JESUS.**

- Six days before the Passover Jesus came again to Bethany to pay His last visit to Lazarus and to the sisters.
- They made Him a supper and Martha served.
- Lazarus was at the table with Him and others in the party.
- While the feast proceeded, the graceful figure of Mary was seen approaching.
- She was bearing in her hand a vase of ointment of spikenard, which was very costly.
- She took the spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus as He was lying on the couch near the table according to the Eastern custom.
- Then she wiped them with her long, shiny hair.
- The house was filled with odor of the ointment.
- Judas rebuked her but Jesus in turn rebuked Judas.
- Mary gave her best.
- Let us give our best to Jesus, also.
- Nothing is too good for Him, and He deserves our very best!