

Mary & Martha

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Luke 10:38-41

Info from John: Mary & Martha (and probably their brother Lazarus) lived in Bethany, a couple miles east of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives.

Speculation:

This may have been the place where Jesus usually stayed when He visited Jerusalem?

Mary & Martha may have had a big home. They may have been a wealthy family, and had room to accommodate Jesus & his disciples.

We don't know if the disciples stayed there too. There is no reference to them in this story; only Mary was listening to Jesus teach. The disciples may have had other friends they could stay with.

We wonder: Did the two sisters often have tension between them?

- a) **What did Jesus need?** *A place to stay -- hospitality.*
- b) **What did Mary need?** *A relationship with God.*
- c) **What did Martha need?** *Affirmation -- she needed to be needed. That's what motivated her to be so busy to serve others.*
- d) **What do you think happened next?**
 - Did Jesus ask Mary to go help Martha? (probably not)*
 - Did Mary volunteer to help her sister? (maybe)*
 - Did Martha take a break, and join Mary in listening to Jesus teach? (we hope so)*

John 11:1-44

The death and resurrection of Lazarus

- e) **Note family information.** *Two sisters and their sick brother.*
- f) **Note geographic information.** *Bethany is a few miles east of Jerusalem. Where was Jesus? Not far, just on the other side of the Jordan River (see John 10:40)*
- g) **How did the sisters express their faith in Jesus?** *They both knew that Jesus had the power to heal Lazarus while he was still alive. Martha knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the true Son of God, and that he had power to raise her dead brother back to life (vv. 22-27)*
- h) **How did the sisters express their disappointment about Jesus?** *"If you had been here, my brother would not have died." (vv. 21, 32)*
- i) **What do Jesus' statements in response to their faith and their disappointment mean for us today? (verses 23 & 25)** *Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." This promise of eternal life is also for us. And His challenge, "Do you believe this?" is also his personal invitation to each one of us to trust Him.*

- j) **Why did Jesus weep? (v 35)** *The Bible does not say - any answer to this question is only a guess. But the group can offer their guesses.*
- k) **How many days had Lazarus been dead? (v.39)** *4 days.*
- l) **What was the effect of the miracle? (vv.41,45-50)** *More people trusted Jesus, making the priests and Pharisees jealous. They made plans to kill him. ...and also kill Lazarus (John 12:9-11).*

John 12:1-8

Anointing Jesus

Parallel accounts supply more information

Matthew 26:6-13

Mark 14:3-9

Luke 7:36-50 reports a similar event. But there are enough differences between Luke's story and the other stories to lead many of us to believe that Luke's story is a different event, at a different time, with different people, than what we see in John.

- m) **What was the event?** *Dinner with Jesus and Lazarus as guests of honor (v.2)*
- n) **When was the event?** *After Lazarus' resurrection, 6 days before Passover (v.1).*
- o) **Where was the event?** *In Bethany (v.1). Matthew & Mark report it was at the house of Simon the Leper. It appears that after Jesus raised Lazarus in chapter 11, He left Bethany, because in John 7:1 says "Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus lived."*
- p) **What was Lazarus doing?** *Eating with Jesus. (v.2)*
- q) **What was Martha doing?** *Serving dinner (v.2)*
- r) **What was Mary doing?** *"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." (v.3)*
- s) **What was Judas doing?** *Complaining about Mary "wasting" expensive perfume. [Judas said, "This perfume was worth three hundred coins. Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?" But Judas did not really care about the poor; he said this because he was a thief. He was the one who kept the money box, and he often stole from it. (vv.5,6)]*
- t) **What were the priests doing?** *"The leading priests made plans to kill Lazarus, too. Because of Lazarus many of the Jews were leaving them and believing in Jesus." (v.10)*

LESSONS FOR US:

Love for Jesus

Faith in Jesus

Life in Jesus

Service to Jesus