

There is nothing too hard for God.

I am a daughter of the King.

God sees me!

He has great plans for me!

I will strive to live as a Christian should.

I will inspire and encourage my sisters to do the same.

Class mantra



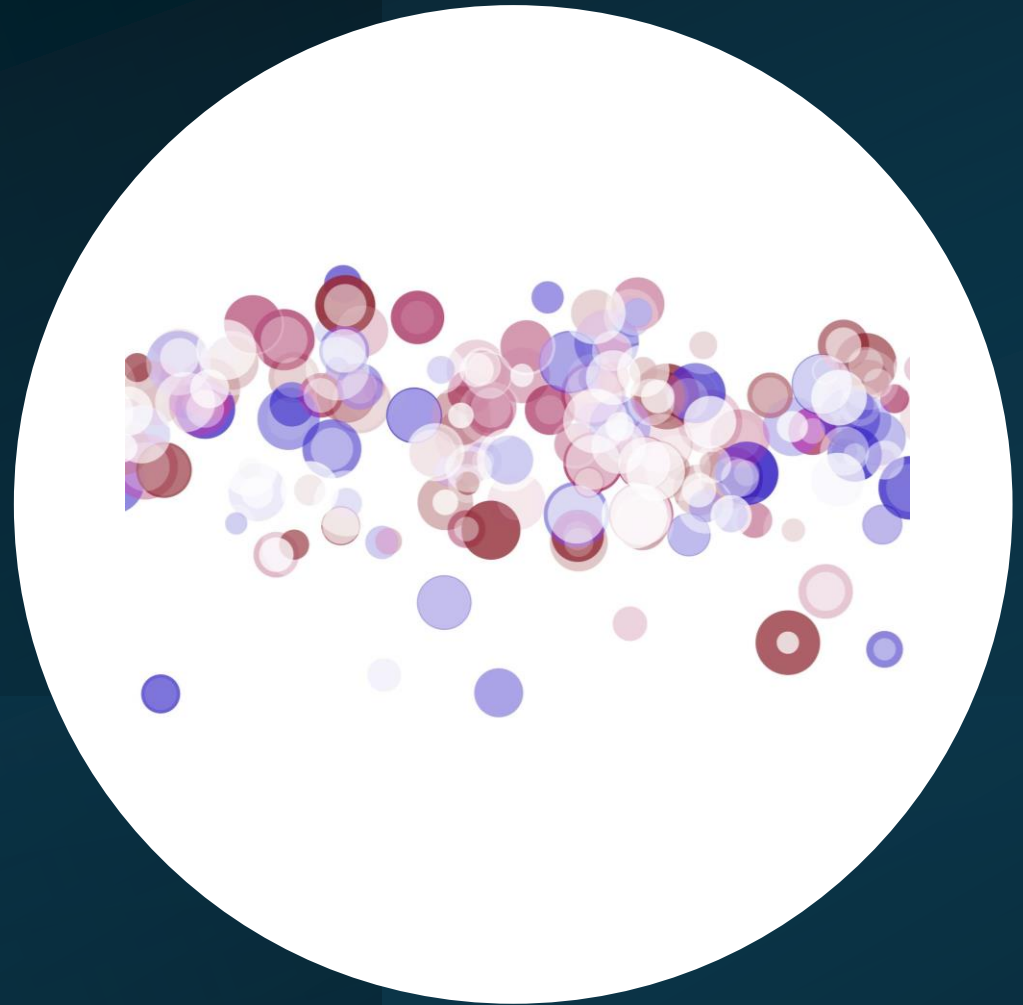
Sitting or Serving? Posturing Ourselves as Disciples

Lessons Learned from
Martha & Mary

**Women of the Bible Speak: FWCC
Sisters' Class**

Sis. Portia Davis

August 18, 2024



brother Lazarus

Martha & Mary

compared to one another
Defensiveness
important women
contribution to the Gospel

Hospitality
Learning at Jesus' feet
Jesus visited often
famous faith
powerful
anointed Jesus' feet
martha

discipleship
Dismissiveness
probably

loved by Jesus
devotion
busyness
Peace
sisters
Of means (wealth)
expensive perfume
Disbelief
Desperation

sitting still
priorities
Witnesses to a miracle
Demands

Serving Jesus
Anxiety & discontent

respected Jewish women

What is known?

Visit #1:
Luke 10:38-42
(NASB)

³⁸Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a **woman named Martha** welcomed Him into her **home**.

³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who was **also** seated at the Lord's feet, **and was listening to His word**.

⁴⁰But Martha was **distracted** with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do the serving by myself? Then tell her to help me."

⁴¹But the Lord answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha,** you are worried and distracted by many things;

⁴²but *only* one thing is necessary; for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Key Points

Disciples: Sit or Serve vs Sit and Serve?

Hospitality

Cultural Norms
(serving vs
sitting)

Martha:
Distraction
(anxiety, driven
away, self-
righteousness)

Mary:
Attentiveness
(discernment,
clarity, wisdom,
strength, &
courage)

Visit #2:

John 11:1-45 (NIV)...Martha

¹Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, **the one you love is sick.**”

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “**if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**” ²² **But I know that even now** God will give you whatever you ask.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die, ²⁶And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. **Do you believe this?**

²⁷“Yes Lord”, she replied, “**I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.**”

Key Points

Character, Honesty & Faith

Martha goes out to meet Jesus

Martha expresses her grief & follows with asserting her faith in Jesus (“even now”)

Jesus prophesies Lazarus’ resurrection & declares his divinity

Martha affirms her belief that Jesus is the Messiah

Visit #2:

John 11:1-45 (NIV)...Mary

³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, **she fell at his feet** and said, **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”**

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

³⁴Where have you laid him? He asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵Jesus **wept.**

⁴³...Jesus called out in a loud voice, Lazarus, come out!⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵Therefore **many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.**

Key Points

Mary's Regret, Jesus' Compassion, The Miracle

Mary hastens to Jesus calling and states almost identical words of grief as Martha's

Mary & companions weep aloud.
Jesus was moved

Jesus wept.
He identifies with us in our sorrow.
God sees the tears of the grief stricken and is moved with compassion

Jesus prays at the tomb and raises Lazarus from the dead. This yielded a reaction of faith by many of the Jews gathered with Mary

Visit #3: John 12:1-8 (NIV)...Mary

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. **Martha served**, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

³Then **Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.** And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁷"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Key Points

Mary anoints Jesus' Feet

Mary's gift was remarkably *humble*

Mary's gift was remarkably *extreme*

Mary's gift was remarkably *unselfconscious*

Mary - a study of devotion to Jesus:
Sat at His feet and *learned*
Fell at His feet and *surrendered*
Anointed His feet and *honored*

5 Lessons to learn from Martha & Mary

True hospitality is fundamental for Christians
(especially Christian women)

Comparison only breeds anxiety, discontent,
and disconnects us from Christ

Go to the best source (Jesus) first

We can tell Jesus ANYTHING

The path to peace begins with one thing:
focusing on our relationship with Him

Scriptures for Our Encouragement

When we concentrate on Jesus first, we discover that we are never truly alone or without help

- **Hebrews 13:5** (NASB) *make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER ABANDONED YOU"*

We experience that His grace is sufficient for all that we face

- **2 Corinthians 9:8** (NIV) *And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

We find inner peace and strength to face whatever comes our way

- **John 14:27** (KJV) *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*

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