

MARY, AT JESUS' FEET

Text: Luke 10:38-39

INTRO: In this lesson we will look at three incidents in the life of Jesus in which He interacted with Mary of Bethany. I believe we can all benefit as we observe Mary at the feet of Jesus.

I. AT MARTHA'S HOUSE -- LEARNING AT HIS FEET.

Note: It was a common expression among the Jews of the first century to describe learning from a teacher as "sitting at his feet." Paul, Acts 22:3. READ LUKE 10:38-42

- A. What Martha did was good; what Mary did was better.
- B. Martha's emphasis was on physical service, thus she criticized her sister, Mary. WASTE of time.
- C. Jesus defended Mary as having made the better choice, because she had chosen something that would endure eternally.
- D. Did Jesus care? "Martha, Martha."

II. AT THE TOMB OF LAZARUS--CASTING HER BURDENS AT HIS FEET. READ JOHN 11:11-44.

- A. Martha was a firm believer.
- B. Mary presented her concerns, cast her burden at Jesus' feet, vs. 32.
- C. Did Jesus care? He came. He wept. He acted.

III. AT THE HOUSE OF SIMON--SERVING AT HIS FEET. READ MARK 14:5-9; READ JOHN 12:1-8.

- A. Again, Martha served food.
- B. Mary worshipped, served on a **higher level**. (transcript:"more spiritual")
- C. Judas & other complained. WASTE of money.
- D. Jesus defended Mary's action & highly commended her.

CONCLUSION: When we put Christ first, when we put spiritual values above material values, we can expect that the world will not understand. Even some of our brethren will not understand. A young man I baptized several years ago has quite a bit of talent as an artist. He likes the Southwest, and has become quite skillful at painting dessert scenes & such like. But over the past several years, he has mostly put that aside to study and preach the gospel of Christ. I heard a lady once complain about his waste of talent.

A few times (very few) when I've strummed my guitar I have had people say that perhaps with proper training & effort, I could have "made it" in the entertainment field.

Some ask, "Why spend so much time in worship assemblies & Bible classes? Why spend so much money on materials & supplies to facilitate evangelism & edification, when it could be spent to help the poor & underprivileged?" Judas complained about Mary's "waste" of the expensive ointment. But in reality, the greatest waster of all time was Judas Iscariot. He had the opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet for three & a half years, to observe His miracles, to hear His sermons, to see His sinless behavior and then throw it all away.

NOTE: The word "waste" that Judas used to describe Mary's use of the precious ointment comes from the same Greek root that is translated "perdition" in 17:12. In the sense of "like-father, like-son," Judas was the son of waste, the greatest waster who ever lived.

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