

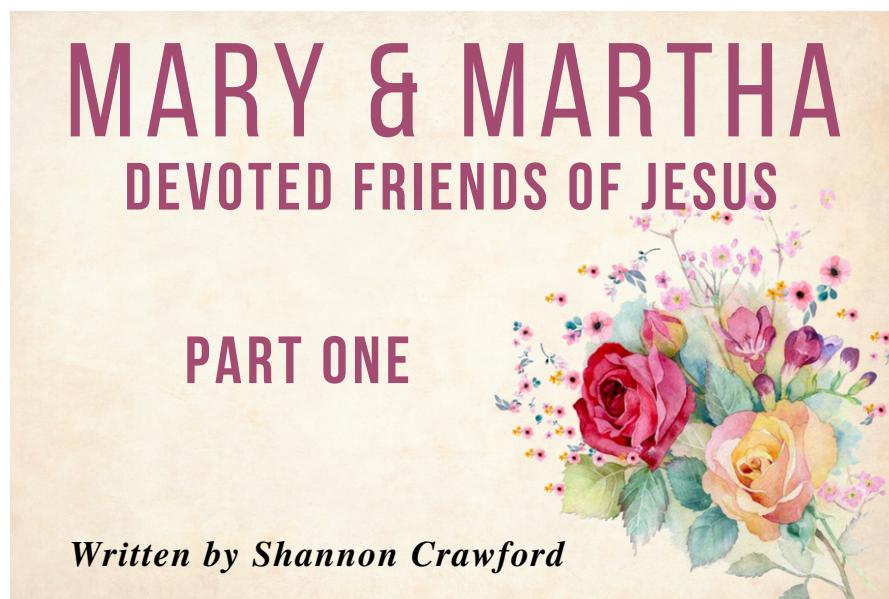
Women & the Bible



A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

FEB 2023 | VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

The following scripture references are from the New King James version.



Jin a village of Bethany near Jerusalem there lived two sisters, Mary, and Martha. Jesus loved these sisters and their brother, Lazarus (**John 11:5**). This family was well respected in their little town. Many people came to comfort the sisters when Lazarus died (**John 11:19**). Perhaps none of them was ever married, but they had each other to lean on. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were close personal friends of our Lord. Toward the end of Jesus' life on earth, He enjoyed spending time with them in their home. We read of three different occasions in the New Testament where the Lord was with this family (**Luke 10, John 11, 12**). There are several things we can learn from these women. They both loved Jesus and served Him in their own unique way.

Martha: A determined housekeeper.

This passage in **Luke 10:38-42** is one of the most familiar lessons taught in Bible classes. Perhaps this occasion could have been Jesus' first visit to their home. Martha's role was played as the hostess. Was she expecting company? We do know that she was working very hard to prepare food for Him and the apostles because verse 40 says she was "distracted with much serving..."

Can you imagine having to prepare dinner without any electricity, indoor plumbing, or appliances? Martha did just that, plus having to make enough food for 13 people. Whew, that's quite a task!

Martha aimed for perfection; there was nothing too good for this honored and adored guest. She was not only doing what was expected of her, but she was showing her love for Jesus in the way she knew best by offering her hospitality. This lady was a good housekeeper. Whenever Jesus was at her home, He was always sure of a warm welcome, a place of rest and refuge.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;" – Psalm 127:1a

Whether you're married or single, if you're going to build a Godly home, it must be centered on Jesus (c.f. **Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4**). Our life needs to reflect the light of the Lord (**Matthew 5:16**). Consider what sister Cindy Colley says about the home:

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As God's woman, I should see my home as my first responsibility; the place that gets the very best of me—not the leftovers. I want my husband to get the best of my nice—not merely because he could demand it, but simply because he's my husband and I love him (Titus 2:3-5) and because my God has demanded that of me. Even should my husband be having a bad day or, as is the case with some sweet sisters I know who are married to non-believers, even if he's having a bad life, my commitment is to God to give my husband my respect (Ephesians 5:33).

EXCERPT OF SISTER TO SISTER: I'M ALL OUT OF "NICE", JULY 8, 2016

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Mary: A studious servant.

While Martha was rushing around trying to get everything done, where was Mary? She was sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, listening to Him teach. I can just imagine during their conversation how much Mary loved talking with Jesus and asking Him questions. How neat would that have been?

Can you feel the frustration Martha had for her sister? I wonder what was going through her mind: *Where is Mary? Why isn't she helping me? I'm having to do all the work. Doesn't she care?* Without realizing what Mary was doing, she thought she could have Jesus tell Mary to help her out. Martha was being taught as well from Jesus as He tenderly rebuked her in verses 41 and 42.

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

What exactly was that “good part” Mary has chosen? She chose to put Christ first (**Colossians 3:2; Matthew 6:33**). According to Jesus, it was more important that Mary was to learn from Him spiritually than for Him to be fed physically (**Matthew 4:4**). Food will not last exceedingly long, but the words of Christ will dwell forever.

Lessons from Martha

I don't think it would be fair to point fingers and say, “Shame on you, Martha.” Afterall, somebody had to prepare the meal. Otherwise, the Lord and His apostles would have gone hungry. However, perhaps Martha was making the meal more extravagant than necessary. She could have easily served a simple meal and the Lord would have been just as pleased. I can understand Martha because whenever my husband and I are expecting company, I tend to go overboard with the food. As homemakers we try to put our best foot forward when it comes to serving guests.

Lessons from Mary

Mary was living above worry as she sat at the feet of Jesus. Notice what **Philippians 4:6-7** says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” What better comfort for us to have than the Lord Himself.

Seek the Lord.

Just as the Lord loved Mary and Martha, He loves us too. He wants us to learn from the choices they made. Think about the choices you make every day. Are you glorifying God with those decisions? No matter what we have going on in our schedules, we must always keep the Lord first in our mind. The list of chores or errands can always get done some other time. The important thing is to first seek the Lord through prayer and studying God’s word every day. If we continue to do so, these are ways we can “sit at Jesus’ feet” and choose “the good part.”

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or article ideas to: office@salinachurchofchrist.com