

At The Feet Of Jesus

1) Mary Sitting At The Feet Of Jesus The Prophet

'Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "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"

(Luke 10:38-42)

- ✓ **At first both sisters listened to what Jesus had to say. But then Martha became distracted**
- ✓ **Many Christians are busy doing things that God has never asked them to do**
- ✓ **We don't need good ideas; only 'God-ideas'**
- ✓ **Faith is our response to that which God initiates on our behalf. 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God' (Rom.10:17)**
- ✓ **We are here to fulfill prophecy, not make history**
- ✓ **Mary chose that good part, i.e. resting in Him**
- ✓ **She was not characterized by inactivity, but *directed activity*. 'Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint' (Isa.40:31)**

- **Martha's identity was in her service. Her worth was measured by her works**
- **What Martha sought for Mary already had**
- **What Martha had could be taken away from her; but that which Mary had could never be lost**
- **Mary wasn't lazy, she did many things for the Lord, but they originated from God**
- **A driven person feels they are responsible for making things happen**
- **She sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word**
- **We minister to others from a place of rest**
- **Our great privilege this year is to hear Him speak**
- **His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor**

2) Mary At The Feet Of Jesus The Priest

'And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept' (John 11:28-35)

- ✓ **A prophet represents God to the people; but a priest represents the people to God**
- ✓ **Jesus called Mary to Him**
- ✓ **Mary brought her grief to Him**
- ✓ **Note the past and future faith of Martha & Mary**
- ✓ **Jesus was moved with compassion**
- ✓ **John wrote this gospel for the Greeks. They believed in an emotionless, passionless God**
- ✓ **When He saw her grief *'He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled'*. Lit. He burst into tears**
- ✓ **Jesus ministered to her need. It was this compassion that led to His action – *'Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb...'* (v.38)**

3) Mary Anointing The Feet Of Jesus The King

'Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always"' (John 12:1-8)

- **It was custom to pour a few drops of perfume on a guest when he arrived at a house or sat to eat**
- **Jesus was in anguish as He contemplated the cross. Only Mary was spiritually attuned to this and she acted appropriately**
- **As she gazed across the table into the eyes of Jesus, she saw the shadow of the cross lying heavy upon Him and she understood its meaning**
- **She anointed Him as her King. The next day He would ride into Jerusalem and be hailed as the King of Israel. But then He would be crucified**
- **She knew this, and her anointing Him was in anticipation of His burial**
- **This perfume was very expensive**
- **Then she wiped His feet with her hair**

- **Judas already worked out the cost and protested the extravagance as irresponsible waste**
- **Jesus came to her defense**
- **She showed that pure worship is the appropriate response to what Jesus did at the cross for us**
- **The whole house was filled with the fragrance
She had done a good (lovely) thing**
- **Her extravagant worship is contrasted with extreme betrayal (Judas)**
- **Jesus said that wherever the gospel is preached what Mary did would also be mentioned. The two must never be separated. Why?**
- **Because it is the fitting response to the gospel.**
'What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation' (Psa.116:12-13)