

## Life lessons from Martha

### *Various Scriptures*

*"But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.'" -Luke 10:40*

How well do you manage the details and disappointments of life? In the midst of serving others and striving to be more like Jesus, do you oftentimes find yourself overwhelmed by all there is to do and endure or overjoyed in knowing that God is working out a far greater plan? No matter where you are in life, Martha teaches us some valuable lessons that will empower and help us overcome the temptation of being stressed out while glorifying God.

### **Did you know?**

- \*Martha's personal name means "lady of the \_\_\_\_\_" or "\_\_\_\_\_"
- \*She is the older sister of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- \*She lived in a town called \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Her family were close friends with Jesus. John 11:5
- \*Her story is told in Luke 10:38-42; John 11:17-45; John 12:1-2

### **As the story continues...**

Jesus is now in his adult years and is actively involved in ministry. He has selected the 12 disciples, performed many miracles, signs and wonders, and his name has become increasingly known throughout the region. Oftentimes in Jesus' public ministry He would travel going from village to village. This particular time they were traveling to in route to Jerusalem but on their way, they stopped in Bethany where they were welcomed in the home of a woman named Martha.

### **Martha's struggle with serving: Luke 10:38-42**

The word welcome in the Greek is *humpodechomai*; (hypo: under) (*dechomai*: receive/welcome) To receive under one's roof, to receive guest; To receive someone as under their personal responsibility, under one's personal care.

To put it another way, welcoming is seeing to the needs of others, also known as showing \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:2

Hospitality was a social requirement in their culture. It was considered shameful to turn anyone away who came to your door. To their credit, this family was remembered for taking people in and caring for their needs.

Not only did she welcome them into her home, but she made preparations to serve them. What all do you think went into making preparations to entertain Jesus and His disciples?

\*C \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*C \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Setting the \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice the struggling contrast:**

In the midst of all of this preparation, the Bible says, Martha's sister Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand."

Distracted in the Greek is perispao, it means to draw around, draw away or to be driven about mentally.

Martha was so frustrated and drawn away that she missed the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ was in her presence. Not only that but she interrupted Jesus' teaching and demanded her own way. What are some signs that we may be distracted by serving?

\*Working harder but \_\_\_\_\_ less

\*Doing more in church but insensitive to what God wants to do in you.

\*Selfish ambition

\*Personal \_\_\_\_\_

In response Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary, Mary has made the right choice and it will not be taken away from her."

**Can you think of a time when you were serving the Lord and not totally in tune with His Word and will? What is one thing we can do to ensure that we are not serving God at the expense of spending time with Him?**

---

---

---

In order to avoid being overwhelmed and discouraged with serving, be encouraged by spending time with God making Him your number one priority. Psalm 27:4; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 6:33

**Martha's struggle with God's saving power: John 11:1-44**

Sadly tragedy had struck in Martha's family through the illness of her brother Lazarus. The sisters Martha and Mary sent word for Jesus to come and visit while Lazarus was still living in hopes that He would heal him. Instead of coming right away, Jesus waited and Lazarus died.

**How do you respond when Jesus doesn't answer your prayers right away and things get worse?**

---

---

By the time Jesus arrives in Bethany it had been \_\_\_\_\_ days since Lazarus had died. They completed the embalming process, placed him in the tomb and began to comfort this family in mourning. For all intents and purposes, it was over. When Martha hears that Jesus is in town she goes outside to meet Him. How do you think she felt when she saw Jesus?

Notice her faith: “Lord if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God. God will give you.”

\*She had faith that Jesus would have kept Lazarus alive.

\*She had faith in Jesus even though Lazarus was dead.

Let this be a reminder, regardless of the circumstance we find ourselves dealing with, we are to always keep our hope and confidence in Jesus! Proverbs 3:5-6

If we’re honest, there are times when our faith is strong and then we have moments when we struggle with our finite understanding of who God is and what He can do.

Mark 9:24

As the conversation went on; Jesus told her that her brother will rise again.

Thinking He was talking about the end of the world, she said, “I know that he will raise again in the resurrection at the last day.” But Jesus was talking about at that very moment. One thing leads to another, Martha goes to get Mary, and together they lead Jesus to the Lazarus’ grave.

All of a sudden Jesus commands the people to \_\_\_\_\_ the stone. Notice what Martha says in verse 39, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.”

In return, Jesus says, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” In other words He is saying I thought you believed in Me? Just like last time, she was aware of the details but did not see the whole picture. In this case the big picture was the resurrection. The resurrection is not just an \_\_\_\_\_, but the resurrection is also a \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus Christ. John 11:25-27

As this powerful story comes to its climax, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father in front of everyone, confirming who He is and encouraging them to believe that God sent Him. Then He shouts with a loud voice, “Lazarus come out!” The Bible says, the dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “unwrap him and let him go.”

**In the midst of all the pain and tragedy we see, hear and understand logically, what does it mean to you that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? How would you encourage someone who is enduring death or tragic circumstance to keep their faith in God?**

---

---

---

#### **Martha’s silence: John 12:1-2**

After Jesus had helped Martha overcome her struggles with serving Him and understanding His saving power, we find her at a place in her life where she is content and serving peacefully.

**As you reflect on all of the lessons God has taught you, if you have peace, how would you describe it and what has been the greatest benefit thus far?**

---

---

---

**As you reflect on this study, what is the greatest lesson that you are willing to share with someone else?**

---

---

---

**“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your hearts be troubled or fearful.” -John 14:27**