



Women of the Bible

Mary or Martha?

Lesson 18

The story of Mary and Martha is a lesson on priorities, balance, and the danger of comparison. These two sisters could not be more opposite, but both are lovers of Jesus. Martha is high-strung, impulsive, and gets distracted by the tasks in front of her. Mary is the calm and insightful type. Jesus shows up at Martha's house and she immediately goes into full hospitality mode. Mary on the other hand seemingly has no problem setting all things aside and simply sitting at Jesus' feet and soaking in His presence. That doesn't settle well with Martha and she lets Jesus know just how she feels about her sister's lack of help. Before we get too critical of Martha and her attitude, let's remember that she first went to Jesus for help. Good choice. What does Jesus do? He gently helps her put things into perspective and lets her know what she should really be concerned about. As we study this story, it is most likely we will see ourselves in both Mary and Martha. Let's learn from both of them and take the best of each!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But 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." ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part,

which will not be taken away from her.” Should you want to learn more about Mary and Martha read John chapter 11

This Week’s Memory Verse:

**Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you.
Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.**

Proverbs 4:25-26(NKJV)

1. The story of Mary and Martha is truly one of comparisons. Mary was diligent to seek after the things of the Lord and Martha was distracted by the things of the world. Jesus understands our tendency to become distracted and talked about them in Luke 21:34-36. Read this passage and put into your own words what Jesus’ words mean to you. _____

2. This story is about finding the right balance. On one hand we should set aside time to sit at the feet of Jesus, but there are also times when we need to get busy. What insight do the following verses give us on this matter?

a. Ephesians 5:19: _____

b. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12: _____

c. What is your conclusion? Do these two verses contradict one another or are they companion verses? _____
