



Mary's Heart and Martha's Hands

Luke 10:38-42

Mary & Martha

- ▶ Are you **more** of a Mary or Martha?
 - ▶ Mary was **contemplative**; Martha was **active**.
 - ▶ Mary's about **being**; Martha's about **doing**.

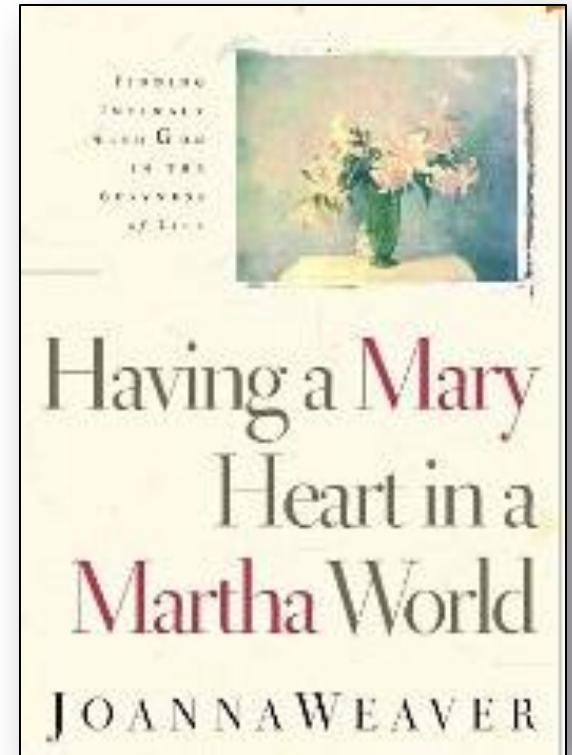
*In today's **context**, Jesus will teach us all that many things are only **temporary**, but **time given to hearing and obeying Jesus lasts forever.***



Most of the time....

Author Joanna Weaver:

- ▶ **“God built His Kingdom to be a Mary world with Martha moments... What we want to have are Mary’s heart and Martha’s hands.”**



The Banquet in Bethany

- ▶ This Gospel story begins with Jesus and over **eighty** (12 + 70) of his closest male disciples all heading to Bethany to take a break from their preaching.
- ▶ **Bethany** was located on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives (**Gethsemane**) on the road linking Jerusalem to Jericho. It was just over a mile and a half from Jerusalem, or about a half hour's walk.
- ▶ **Bethany** was a favorite place of Jesus while in the Jerusalem area.



Jesus Friends

- ▶ Jesus had *real friends in Bethany*; (Two sisters and a brother). Their names were Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
- ▶ **Martha**, whose name means “lady” was an industrious, hard-working woman.
- ▶ **Mary** whose name means “bitter” seems to be more ethereal (delicate, intellectual).



Luke 10:38-39

- ▶ 38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named **Martha welcomed Him** into her home.

(Typical Shalom greeting / foot washing / etc.)

- ▶ 39 {But} she had a sister called Mary, who more-over was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet.
- ▶ *The idea here is that Mary's actions were unusual or unique...but **NOT WRONG.***



Luke 2:49 & 4:16-21



- ▶ "Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be in **My Father's house?**"
 - ▶ And He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read "The Spirit of the Lord is upon **Me**, because He anointed **Me** to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent **Me** to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." And He closed the book, and ... stated to them, ***"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."***
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But Martha was Upset with Mary

- ▶ **Luke 10:40** – But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up {to Jesus,} and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left *me to do all the serving alone?*"

Contrast: Martha's idea of "good"
and Jesus' idea of "good."



She Followed Custom...



***WHAT SHE DID, MANY WOMEN WOULD HAVE DONE AND STILL DO IN MANY SETTINGS. SHE WAS NOT SINNING, YET.**



Again Luke 10:40 says...

- ▶ *But distracted Martha said – “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving *alone*...*

(This is the key issue)



- ▶ *Then tell her to help me.*”



- ▶ Martha’s refusal to enjoin herself to the meal was one thing, but her **public reprimand** of Jesus for NOT asking Mary to do the same, **was another**.



Martha's Viewpoint

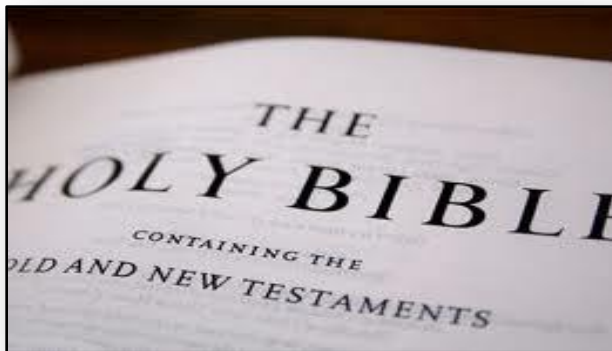


- ▶ Martha had chosen what was *good in her own sight*; indirect service of Jesus.
- ▶ She had humbly recused herself from joining Jesus' banquet because she was a woman. (*legal term*).
- ▶ She followed custom and demonstrated true humility.
- ▶ (*GK. - *at least some of the male guests may have joined her in her protest*)



The Real Choice (*My Way or Jesus' Way*)

- ▶ But what Jesus **knows** here is that neither Mary *nor* Martha can live by **physical bread alone (Mt. 4:4)**...
- ▶ But on **THIS OCCASION**, nearer to the Cross than ever before it was **NOW** time for both ladies and the entire entourage to digest some ***Spiritual Bread*** and **feed their souls.**



Not BAD Things...

- ▶ Just *less important* things.
- ▶ But sometimes, *even good things* can fill up our lives to the point where we *neglect* our souls.
- ▶ God has *not* blessed us with our families, friends, jobs, abilities and other gifts to give us an *excuse* to *forsake* a close walk with Him.

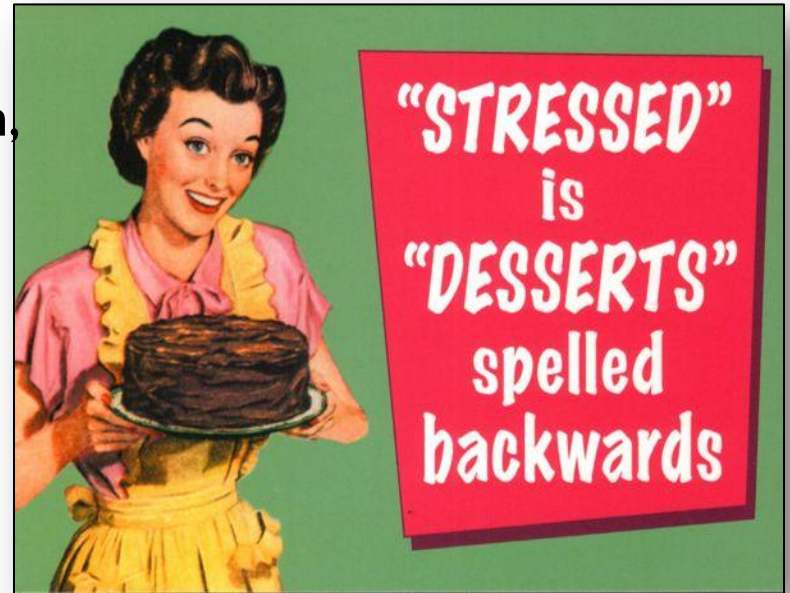
Jn. 15:5 “Apart
from Me you
can do **NO-**
THING...”



Anxiety is a Killer

- ▶ Martha's ***stressed***...
- ▶ ***She's stewing*** in the Kitchen..."
- ▶ She thinks Jesus ***doesn't care***..." (He Does Care!)

Where faith grows, anxiety lessens... "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' "...But seek **first His kingdom** and His righteousness; and all these 'things' shall be added unto you." (**Mt. 6:31-33**).



Mary's Correct Priorities



- ▶ **“Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many (RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT) things; “...but only a few things are necessary, really one, for Mary has chosen the good part, (*better choice = to be with Jesus) which shall not be taken from her.”**



This is My
Beloved Son,
Hear Ye Him!



John 6:27-29

- ▶ 27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, {even} God, has set His seal." They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent..."

*I am
the Bread
of Life*

John 6:35



John 6:33-35

- ▶ 33 "For the Bread of God is that which comes down out of Heaven and gives life to the World."
- ▶ 34 They said therefore to Him, "Lord, evermore give us *this bread.*"
- ▶ 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to Me shall **not hunger**, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.
- ▶ 36 "*But I said to you, that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.*"

*I am
the Bread
of Life*

John 6:35



Too Busy?

- ▶ **Today**, if you are **TOO BUSY** to **commune** with the Lord; to **pray** and **study His Word**; to **meditate** on His life's purpose and to enjoy a peaceful, private time with Him, **THEN YOU ARE TOO BUSY** and there is something **horribly wrong** with your faith and that is **Sinful!**

“Take, eat; this is **My body.**” (Mt. 26:26)



If Our Walk of Faith...



- ▶ If our walk of faith consists ENTIRELY of “Martha moments” to the EXCLUSION of “Mary meetings,” Jesus would say that we too are not receiving of the goodness that the Lord has planned for us.

And if we are *so harried, so hassled, so distracted* by the routines of our daily existence that we find ourselves even *lashing out* at those we love [as Martha did on that occasion], then isn't that a good indication that something needs to be fixed ?



Later in their Friendship



that

- ▶ "Lord, if You had been here my brother not have died. "Even now I know whatever You ask of God, God will give You."
 - ▶ **THAT WAS A FAITHFUL STATEMENT**... But then Jesus offered the **good part** of that day & every day-
 - ▶ "Jesus said to her, **'I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live even if He dies.** And everyone (INCLUDING YOU MARTHA) who lives and **believes in Me** shall never die. **Do you believe this?**"
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Martha's Confession

- ▶ 27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; ***I have {always} believed*** that You are the Christ, the Son of God, {even} He who comes into the world.”



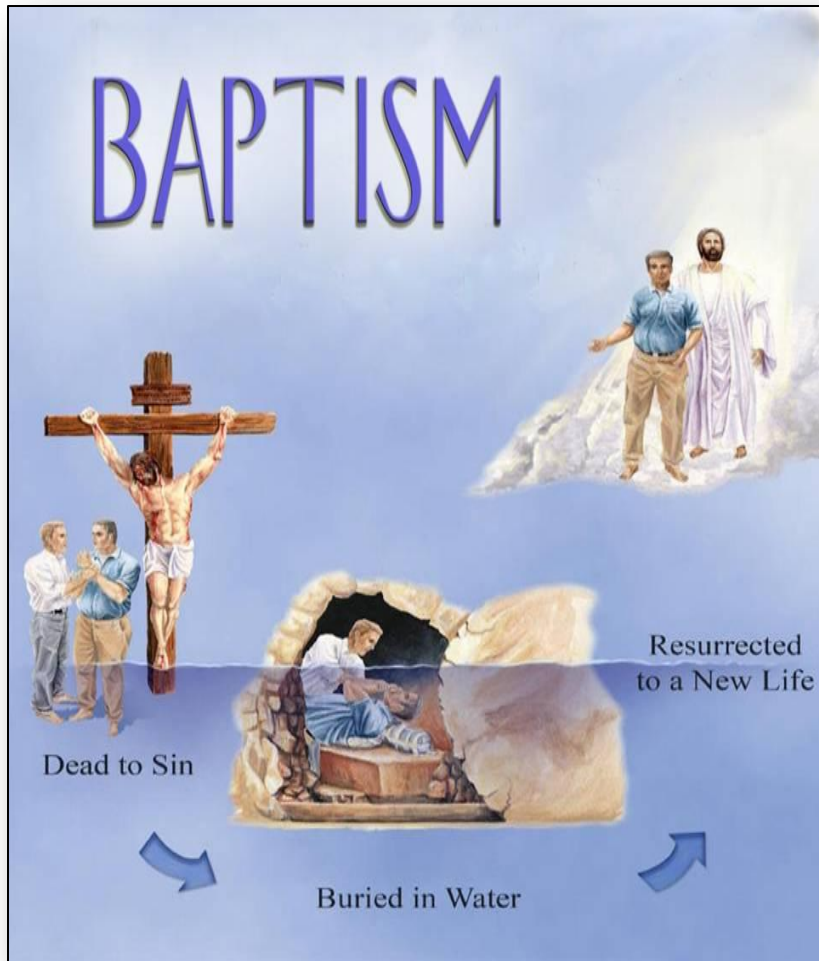
FAITH and SALVATION

- ▶ **Faith** which comes by hearing His Word (Rom. 10:17).
- ▶ **Faith** that overcomes the world (1 Jn. 5:4).
- ▶ Without **Faith** it's impossible to please God (Heb 11:6).
- ▶ The **Faith** through which we are Saved (Eph. 2:5)
- ▶ The **Faith** that leads us to Repentance and Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16)
- ▶ The **Faith** we must keep to receive the Crown of Righteousness at life's end (2 Tim 4:7,8).

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GRACE
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FAITH and SALVATION



- ▶ For that reason, the Gospel is taught that men and women might be led to the obedience through faith (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38), and be saved.

Interestingly...

- ▶ “So they made Him a supper there, and **Martha was serving** but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.” (**Jn. 12:2**).



Mary anoints Jesus' feet with costly perfume and weeps openly.

Martha fixes our Lord dinner (for perhaps her last time).

No complaint this time.



Where Are You in This Picture?

▶ Are you more like Mary or Martha?

What Jesus wants is Mary's heart
and Martha's hands.

