

MARY OF BETHANY –

The legacy of Mary of Bethany

1. People who Jesus gave special honor to in His ministry
 - a. Centurion honored for his faith (Matt. 8:7-10)
 - b. Poor widow who gave all she had to live on to the Lord (Mar 12:42-43)
 - c. Gentile woman with demon possessed daughter with great faith (Matt. 15:28)
 - d. John the Baptist is called the greatest man to ever live up to his time, (Matt.11: 11; Luke 7:28)- note that humility is THE path to greatness
 - e. Mary of Bethany honored 2 times. Once for making time to listen to Jesus, and another time for her costly worship (Luke 10:42; Mark 14:9, Matt.26:13)
2. Honored and affirmed by Jesus-
Where ever the gospel is preached... what she has done will also be told (Mark 14:9, Matt.26:13)

Listening to Jesus Word – a recipe for friendship with God - Luke 10:38-42

1. She knew how to rest in her relationship with Jesus – She sat at Jesus feet (v.39)
 - a. We rest by knowing God’s love for us rather than trying to earn approval (1Jn 3:1)
 - b. Father’s love sets us free to be live by the Spirit rather than the Law and works (Gal 4:4-7)
 - c. We rest by knowing that Jesus blood brings us directly into the holy of holies (Heb 10:19)
 - d. We rest through trusting God (Heb 4:2-3,10)
 - e. Rest brings restoration to our emotions (Ps. 23:2-3)
2. She looked to Jesus to be her master and teacher – She sat at Jesus Feet (v.39)
 - a. sitting at Jesus feet = sitting beneath an instructor
 - b. Having God’s word be the final authority on every area of our life (Rom 10:9-10; Mat 7:24-25)
 - c. Being 100% obedient to what the Lord is speaking to us (Luk 6:46)
 - d. Having Jesus be our master and final authority on everything (Luk 6:46; Joh 13:13)
3. Mary listened to Jesus – Listening to His word (v.39)
 - a. Listening through Holy Spirit highlighting the word is the main way the believer listens (Heb. 4:12; 2Pet 1:3-4)

- b. We listen by identifying the still small voice of the Lord (1Kings 19:12)
 - c. Dreams and visions (Ac. 2:17)
4. Mary wasn't distracted by much serving like Martha(v.40)
 - a. Martha wasn't distracted by her occupational work, but rather by serving Jesus
 - b. Martha was probably putting into action Jesus teaching that the servant was the greatest (Mark 9:35)
 - c. We should all be involved in serving our family, church, and others.(Mark 9:35)
 5. Mary wasn't worried like her sister was (v. 41)
 - a. The key to live a worry free life is to seek God wholeheartedly (Matt. 6:33-34)
 6. Mary wasn't troubled and disturbed to the point of distraction like Martha - "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things" (v.41)
 - a. "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. (v. 41)
 - b. We are to receive Peace from Jesus rather than letting our hearts be troubled (John 14:27)
 7. Mary loved to be with Jesus! (V. 42)
 8. The Story of Mary and Martha has nothing to do with God liking one personality type over another, but rather is focused on our actions

Tears that move God's Heart - John 11:32-40

1. Prayer starts when we purposely come to God - Mary came where Jesus was (v.32)
 - a. We come by faith (Heb 4:16)
 - b. We come to our Father who has unconditional love for us (Mat 6:9;Luk 15:20)
 - c. We come into his presence (Heb. 12:22)
 - d. We come through thanksgiving and praise (Psa 100:4)
 - e. We come to his presence through hope (Heb 6:19-20)
2. Prayer continues as we see Jesus - Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him (v.32)

- a. We behold God through biblical revelation knowledge of the person of Jesus. (2Co 4:6).
 - b. We behold God by staying in his glory when it comes (ex33:10-11)
 - c. Since God is love we behold Him by soaking his love in. (1Jn. 4:8)
3. God wants us to pour our hearts out in prayer, praying from the place of deep desire. - when Jesus saw her weeping (v. 32-33)
- a. Prayer vs. the “charismatic six shooter”
 - b. Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing you will receive (Matt. 21:22)
 - c. God wants our desire to be stirred as we pray (Joel 2:13)
4. God’s heart is moved as he sees us cry out to Him – Jesus wept (v. 33-35)
- a. God puts our tears in a bottle and records them in his book (Psa 56:8-9)
 - b. God is an emotional God and he wants us to bring our emotions to him. (Ps. 42:4; Ps. 62:8; Ps. 142:2)

Prophetic worship – Mark 14:3-9 & John 12:1-8

1. Mary was in the place of seeing what Jesus had done in her life (John 12:1-2)
- a. He raised her brother from the dead
 - b. He saved her from financial ruin (she was probable financially dependant on her brother)
 - c. Worship starts as we see what Jesus has saved us from
2. Mary worshiped Jesus in an extremely extravagant way – ...came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil (Mark 14:3)
- a. God loves it when we worship him with outward extravagance of shouting, singing, dancing and clapping our hands. (Ps. 95:2; Ps. 149:3; Ps. 47:1)
 - b. We worship God with the inward extravagance of a thankful heart (Ps. 100:4)
 - c. Like Mary we are to worship God without the fear of what others are thinking of us (Gal. 6:14)
 - d. We are to worship God with all of our heart (Ps. 111:1)
3. Extravagant worship may make others uncomfortable - some who were indignant (Mark 14:4)

4. Extravagant worship isn't always logical - it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii (Mark 14:5)
5. God's Heart is blessed by extravagant worship - She has done a good work for Me. (Mark 14:6)
 - a. Sweet smelling aroma (Ex. 29:18)
 - b. Worship ministers to God (Deut.10:8)
6. Extravagant worship releases the prophetic within us - ... to anoint My body for burial (Mark 14:8)
 - a. None of the Disciples knew Jesus was going to die for it was hidden from them (Luk 18:33-34)
 - b. Mary's spontaneous expression of love was prophetic
7. Mary is a picture of worship, prayer, and prophecy flowing together – David's Tabernacle Ps. 40
 - a. Worship
 - i. "to the chief musician" V. 1
 - ii. "He has put a new song in my mouth" V. 3
 - iii. Also V 5, 9, 10
 - b. Prayer
 - i. "do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord" V. 11
 - ii. "Be pleased, O lord, to deliver me; O Lord make haste to help me" V 13
 - iii. Also V. 15-17,
 - c. Prophecy
 - i. V6-8 "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire" Heb. 10:5-10
 - i. David was probably didn't know fully what he was speaking about. Holy Spirit was moving him to prophecy about Jesus. (1Pet 1:10-11)
 - d. These streams of prophecy, worship, and prayer flow together. To grow in one leads to the others.