



One Thing Is Needed

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" — ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

More on Martha from John's Gospel

At the resurrection of Lazarus

John 11:1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

✓ Martha believed in the healing power of Jesus

⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

✓ Jesus loved Martha for who she was

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

✓ Martha was first to welcome Jesus onto the property

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

✓ Martha believed Jesus could raise the dead

✓ Martha believed Jesus was the Son of God

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

✓ Martha was practical, protective, and modest

⁴³ Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

A week before the crucifixion

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

✓ Martha served and worked to honor Jesus

1. Martha was doing dinner for the disciples

Luke 10:38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

- ▼ She was a hospitable homeowner
- ▼ She was a hardworking hostess

2. Martha was distracted

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

- ▼ Messiah was speaking
- ▼ Mary was sitting and soaking
- ▼ Martha was stirring and stewing

3. Martha was demanding

Luke 10:40 She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

- ▼ She scolded her Savior
- ▼ She slammed her sweet sister

4. Martha was distressed

Luke 10:41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

- ▼ Jesus double-dinged her
- ▼ Jesus diagnosed her

5. Martha was defused

Luke 10:41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- ▼ Martha needed to relax from the other things
- ▼ Martha needed to refocus on the One Thing