

~MARTHA (292)
(Mar'tha)

- **A Jewess, the sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany.**
- **Now there was a certain man sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary and of **Martha** her sister. (John 11:1)**
- **It was, in fact, the Mary that greased the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet dry with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. (John 11:2)**
- **Evidently Christ often visited their home when he was in the vicinity of Jerusalem. Bonds of affection existed between him and these three, for it is specifically said; Now Jesus loved **Martha** and her sister and Lazarus.**
- **Now Jesus loved **Martha** and her sister and Lazarus. (John 11:5)**
- **Luke reports that when Jesus entered a certain village, a certain woman named **Martha** received him as guest into the house.**
- **Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named **Martha** received him as guest into the house. (Luke 10:38)**
- **On the basis of,**
- **While Jesus happened to be in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. (Matthew 26:6)**
- **And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the meal, a woman came with an alabaster case of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very expensive. Breaking open the alabaster case she began to pour it upon his head. (Mark 14:3)**
- **Accordingly Jesus, six days before the Passover, arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus was whom Jesus had raised up from the dead. (John 12:1)**
- **Therefore they spread an evening meal for him there, and **Martha****

was ministering, but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. (John 12:2)

- Mary, therefore, took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house became filled with the scent of the perfumed oil. (John 12:3)
- The thought has been advanced that **Martha** was the wife, or the widow, or even the daughter of Simon the leper. However, the Scriptures do not make any specific statements in support of these views.
- On one occasion when Jesus visited the home of Lazarus, Mary, and **Martha**, Mary sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word, whereas **Martha** was distracted with attending to many duties. Martha tried to obtain Mary's assistance, saying; Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me.
- Obviously **Martha** was concerned about satisfying Jesus material needs. But Christ then emphasized the excelling value of spiritual things and gave her kind reproof, saying; **Martha, Martha**, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her.
- Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named **Martha** received him as guest into the house. (Luke 10:38)
- This woman also had a sister called Mary, who, however, sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. (Luke 10:39)
- **Martha**, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So, she came near and said; Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me. (Luke 10:40)
- In answer the Lord said to her; **Martha, Martha**, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. (Luke 10:41)
- A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary

chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her.
([Luke 10:42](#))

- Christ would have been satisfied with one item of food if his doing so would mean that **Martha**, too, would gain greater advantage from his teaching.
- While it may seem that **Martha** was overly concerned with material things, it should not be concluded that she lacked interest in spiritual matters.
- After the death of Lazarus, it was **Martha** who went to meet Jesus as he journeyed to Bethany, while Mary, at first, sat at home, possibly because of grief or because of the many visiting friends.
- **Martha** showed faith in Christ when she said that Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had been present. She also acknowledged; I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day, showing she believed in the resurrection.
- During that conversation Jesus explained that he is the resurrection and the life, pointing out that though one exercising faith in him died, he would come to life. When Christ asked **Martha**; Do you believe this? She clearly showed her faith by replying,
- Accordingly many of the Jews had come to **Martha** and Mary in order to console them concerning their brother. ([John 11:19](#))
- Therefore **Martha**, when she heard that Jesus was coming, met him, but Mary kept sitting at home. ([John 11:20](#))
- **Martha** therefore said to Jesus; Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. ([John 11:21](#))
- And yet at present I know that as many things as you ask God for, God will give you. ([John 11:22](#))
- Jesus said to her; Your brother will rise. ([John 11:23](#))
- **Martha** said to him, I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day. ([John 11:24](#))
- Jesus said to her; I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.

(John 11:25)

- **And everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this? (John 11:26)**
- **She said to him; Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God, the One coming into the world. (John 11:27)**
- **This, of course, does not rule out the possibility of her having some doubts as to what Jesus could or would now do in the case of her dead brother. The apostles attitude related at;**
- **As the women became frightened and kept their faces turned to the ground, the men said to them; Why are you looking for the living One among the dead? (Luke 24:5)**
- **He is not here, but has been raised up. Recall how he spoke to you while he was yet in Galilee. (Luke 24:6)**
- **Saying that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be impaled and yet on the third day rise. (Luke 24:7)**
- **So they called his sayings to mind. (Luke 24:8)**
- **And they returned from the memorial tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. (Luke 24:9)**
- **They were the Magdalene Mary, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. Also, the rest of the women with them were telling the apostles these things. (Luke 24:10)**
- **However, these sayings appeared as nonsense to them and they would not believe the women. (Luke 24:11)**
- **At Lazarus tomb, when Christ ordered that the stone be taken away, **Martha** said; Lord, by now he must smell, for it is four days. But in response Jesus asked:**
- **Jesus said; Take the stone away. **Martha**, the sister of the deceased, said to him; Lord, by now he must smell, for it is four days. (John 11:39)**

- Jesus said to her; Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? ([John 11:40](#))
- Therefore they took the stone away. Now Jesus raised his eyes heavenward and said; Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ([John 11:41](#))
- True, I knew that you always hear me, but on account of the crowd standing around I spoke, in order, that they might believe that you sent me forth. ([John 11:42](#))
- And when he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice; Lazarus, come on out! ([John 11:43](#))
- The man that had been dead came out with his feet and hands bound with wrappings, and his countenance was bound about with a cloth. Jesus said to them; Loose him and let him go. ([John 11:44](#))
- After the resurrection of Lazarus, Christ departed. Later, he returned to Bethany and gathered with others, including **Martha**, Mary, and Lazarus, in the home of Simon the leper.
- An evening meal had been prepared and again **Martha** was ministering. Lazarus was at the table, and it was on that occasion that Mary anointed Jesus with costly perfumed oil.
- Accordingly Jesus, six days before the Passover, arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus was whom Jesus had raised up from the dead. ([John 12:1](#))
- Therefore they spread an evening meal for him there, and **Martha** was ministering, but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. ([John 12:2](#))
- Mary, therefore, took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house became filled with the scent of the perfumed oil. ([John 12:3](#))
- But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, who was about to betray him, said. ([John 12:4](#))
- Why was it this perfumed oil was not sold for three hundred

denarii and given to the poor people? ([John 12:5](#))

- He said this, though, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box and used to carry off the monies put in it. ([John 12:6](#))
- Therefore Jesus said; Let her alone, that she may keep this observance in view of the day of my burial. ([John 12:7](#))
- For you have the poor always with you, but me you will not have always. ([John 12:8](#))
- While Jesus happened to be in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. ([Matthew 26:6](#))
- A woman with an alabaster case of costly perfumed oil approached him, and she began pouring it upon his head as he was reclining at the table. ([Matthew 26:7](#))
- On seeing this the disciples became indignant and said; Why this waste? ([Matthew 26:8](#))
- For this could have been sold for a great deal and been given to poor people. ([Matthew 26:9](#))
- Aware of this, Jesus said to them; Why do you try to make trouble for the woman? For she did a fine deed toward me. ([Matthew 26:10](#))
- For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ([Matthew 26:11](#))
- For when this woman put this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it for the preparation of me for burial. ([Matthew 26:12](#))
- Truly I say to you, wherever this Good News is preached in all the world, what this woman did shall also be told as a remembrance of her. ([Matthew 26:13](#))
- And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the meal, a woman came with an alabaster case of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very expensive. Breaking open the alabaster case she began to pour it upon his head. ([Mark 14:3](#))

- **At this there were some expressing indignation among themselves; Why has this waste of the perfumed oil taken place? (Mark 14:4)**
- **For this perfumed oil could have been sold for upward of three hundred denarii and been given to the poor! And they were feeling great displeasure at her. (Mark 14:5)**
- **But Jesus said; Let her alone. Why do you try to make trouble for her? She did a fine deed toward me. (Mark 14:6)**
- **For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want to you can always do them good, but me you do not have always. (Mark 14:7)**
- **She did what she could, she undertook beforehand to put perfumed oil on my body in view of the burial. (Mark 14:8)**
- **Truly I say to you, wherever the Good News is preached in all the world, what this woman did shall also be told as a remembrance of her. (Mark 14:9)**
- **The Scriptures are silent regarding subsequent events in **Martha's** life and the time and circumstances of her death.**