

Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

Based on NLT (2004)

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One day as Jesus and his closest followers were traveling towards Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at Jesus' feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Master*, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." But Jesus said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! Mary has discovered the most important thing to be concerned about, and it will not be taken away from her."*

Crafted Story

As Jesus and his closest followers were traveling to their place of worship, they stopped at some friends' house in a village outside of town. Two sisters, Mary and Martha, lived there with their brother. Martha welcomed Jesus inside, and began to prepare a big dinner for the guests. But Mary didn't go to help her. Instead, she sat at Jesus' feet, listening as he taught the people around. Martha was so busy preparing the dinner that she wasn't listening to Jesus teaching. Then, she noticed that Mary wasn't helping her. So she went to Jesus, and said, "Master, don't you think it's unfair that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." Jesus looked at her and said, "Oh, Martha, you're so worried and upset over little details. Mary has discovered the most important thing to be concerned about. I will not take it away from her."

Questions

1. What was the difference between Mary and Martha? What did their actions show about their personalities and their characters?
2. Why do you think Jesus stood up for Mary?
3. If you were Martha, how would you have felt? What would you have learned from Jesus that day?
4. In Jesus' eyes, what was the more important thing to be concerned about?
5. Think about your own life. How do you live out what Jesus taught in this story?