

MARY'S EXTRAVAGANCE



Many times, we have heard about the story of Mary and Martha (as recorded in Luke 10.) Jesus was visiting their home and Mary (rather than helping Martha with the serving) sat down at the feet of Jesus to listen to Him. Martha became very upset with her sister because of her lack of sensitivity to help her with the serving of the meal. In fact, the Amplified Bible says that Martha was overly occupied and too busy (was distracted with much serving). She went to Jesus with her complaint (probably hoping that Jesus would correct Mary's lack of helping). However, Jesus did not do so but to Martha's great surprise Jesus told her that Mary had made the BETTER CHOICE! Look up Jesus' reply to her in Luke 10:41 and 42 and in your own words, write what Jesus said:

In further looking through the other Gospels, we see other references to Mary spending time at Jesus feet. In the following three references, after reading these accounts, write down what she was doing.

1. Luke 10:39

2. John 11:32

3. John 12:3

As you can see, Mary obviously spent a lot of time at His feet. She knew her Lord in a special way. She was completely devoted to Him. Because of the time she spent at His feet, we see the result of it with her act of pouring out a very expensive perfume upon His feet and wiping them with her hair. The whole house was filled with the fragrance of that perfume.

What a statement this should say to each of us. Isn't that exactly what the Lord is after in our lives? The amount of time we spend at His feet, our lives should reflect a fragrance of love and devotion for our Savior. There should be an extravagant pouring out as a

result. This reminds me of a song that we heard frequently a few years ago. The words went like this:

**“Broken and spilled out
Just for love of you, Jesus
My most precious treasure lavished on Thee.
Broken and spilled out
And poured at Your feet
In sweet abandon,
Lord, let me be spilled out and used up for Thee!**

Just a further note about Martha: In Luke 10 and John 12, Martha was always busy serving. True, we are to be servants, but that should be the RESULT (the fruit) of spending time at His feet...part of the pouring out in our lives. However, we see she seemed overly occupied with the serving. I wonder as I read these portions if Martha really knew her Lord and saw Him as Mary did? Was she one that felt she had to perform in order to gain His acceptance? Did the serving come before the time spent with Him? These are questions we even need to ask ourselves to keep from getting it all backwards in our lives.

Romans 12:1 tell us to “make a decisive dedication of your bodies (presenting all your members and faculties) as a living sacrifice, holy devoted and consecrated which is your reasonable service and spiritual worship.”

Two other references relating to this very topic are found in 1 Corinthians 6:20, Matthew 22:37, and Mark 12:29-33. As you look these up, write down how each one applies.

Our lives should indicate that we are “Mary’s”, and the evidence will come as we sit at the feet of our Master...spending time in our “listening rooms” and learning from Him. The evidence will come as that fragrance is poured out from our lives and as we go about “spilling out” what He has placed within us. As our lives “spill forth”, we also need to constantly return to His feet to be renewed and filled up.

How are YOU doing sitting at your Master’s feet?