

## Stay Low

Luke 10:38-39, 42; John 11:32; 12:1-3

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### I. To Learn - Luke 10:38-39, 42

#### A. Mary Was Seated

1. She was still
  - a) Many of us pray but never stay at His feet to listen
2. At His Feet
  - a) Mary has time to give Jesus an extravagant anointing.  
*παρακαθέζομαι\*\** is 'to sit beside', and the position at the feet of a teacher (Acts 22:3) was typical of pupils; Mary's posture expresses zeal to learn and it is significant that Jesus encourages a woman to learn from him, since the Jewish teachers were generally opposed to this
  - b) Also a role of a disciple to sit at the feet uncommon for women.
    - (1) Simon Peter fell down at **Jesus'** feet, saying, Lk 5:8
    - (2) Jairus, and he was an official of the synagogue fell at **Jesus'** feet, and *began* Lk 8:4
    - (3) not for **Jesus'** sake only, but that they Jn 12:9
    - (4) There was another Mary that was at His Feet Luke 7:38, 44-47; John 12:3

#### B. Listening

1. To His Word
  - a) Zealously hanging onto every word absorbing his teaching without distraction.
  - b) Not talking or moving but listening

#### C. Martha's Disposition

1. Distracted - **to have one's attention directed from one thing to another, become or be distracted, quite busy, overburdened**  
to be so overburdened by various distractions as to be worried and anxious  
'to be pulled, dragged away'
  - a) With Preparations – Social event
2. Serving Her Guest
  - a) Very possible she was widow
  - b) Mistress of the home
  - c) Mary and Lazarus staying there with her
  - d) It is nothing wrong with her hospitality just her priority
3. Does Jesus Care?
  - a) Tell her to help me!
  - b) Jesus meet my need for my desired schedule

(1) Need- that which should happen or be supplied because it is needed

D. Jesus' Reposition (Matthew 6:25-34)

1. You are worried and bothered
  - a) Anxious – to have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune  
(1) , ***be (unduly) concerned***
2. Bothered - cause trouble' to be emotionally upset by a concern or anxious
  - a) So many Wrong Things
3. There is only one need
  - a) One thing that is good
    - (1) Teachings of Jesus
    - (2) The will of God Kingdom Matthew 6:33
    - (3) Tomorrow will take of itself so pray Phil 4:6
  - b) It will not be removed

## II. To Grieve - John 11:20; 32

A. Martha Met - in a friendly sense

1. If you would have been here
  - a) Even now God will give you
  - b) The words are those of a grieving person who desperately wished it could have been different but who has recognized that the inevitable had come to pass. Moreover, her subsequent words, "even now ..." (11:22) must not be read as her belief that Jesus could reverse the reality of death (cf. 11:39). Instead, her statement should be understood as indicating a strong confidence in Jesus' relationship with the Father and that in spite of her resignation to Lazarus's death, somehow Jesus would understand the plight of the mourning sisters as well as the general nature of Lazarus's future hope.

B. Mary Fell -

1. Fell at His Feet - To Express Veneration of Jesus. On the other hand, expressions of subordination, subjection and worship are unrestrained and uncontested at the feet of Jesus.
  - a) When Mary met Jesus, she fell at His feet, impulsive and demonstrative creature as she was, and said, as Martha had said
  - b) Reaching **Jesus**, Mary **fell at His feet**. This is significant, for on a previous occasion she had sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching (Luke 10:39). Her greeting to Jesus was the same as her sister's (John 11:21).
  - c) Her approach to Jesus is more emotional than that of her sister, and less private, and so the interchange now follows a different line

2. If You would have been here
    - a) She felt the tragedy would have been averted **if He had been** present. Her faith was sincere but limited
    - b) If unlike Martha she does not go on to affirm her continued faith in Jesus, her words nevertheless reveal her confidence that Jesus has power to heal.
- C. Mary Wept
1. **Weep-** to weep or wail, with emphasis upon the noise accompanying the weeping—‘to weep, to wail, to lament, weeping, crying
    - a) When Mary reaches Jesus, she falls at his feet—indicating, perhaps, less emotional restraint than her sister displayed—and utters the same thing Martha had said.

### III. To Adore - John 12:1-3

- A. Martha Serving
- i. Serving - of attention at meals *wait on someone*
- b. Lazarus Reclining –
- i. Reclining - always of reclining at table, equals *dine*
    1. But only those who were served could recline. Women, children and slaves usually ate standing or in other way
  - ii. Since those who were eating were reclining, their feet extended away from the table, making it possible to anoint as much of the person as one might wish
- c. Mary Anointing Feet
- i. The actions of Mary and Martha—the latter serving, the former adoring—are consistent with the picture of the two women preserved in Luke 10:38–42.
  - ii. To anoint the head of a guest (cf. Ps. 23:5) was an act of Eastern courtesy and respect, but Jn. treats the incident differently, and tells that Mary anointed Jesus’ *feet*
  - iii. The quantity of perfume is considerable, a *litra* a measurement of weight apparently equivalent to the Latin *libra* approximately eleven ounces
  - iv. John focuses on Jesus’ feet: in terms of the symbolism established in ch. 13, at the very least this signifies the utmost in self-humbling devotion and love, regardless of cost (**the expense of the nard**) or of what others might think (**Mary let down the tresses of her hair to wipe Jesus’ feet**).
  - v. Mary’s lavish gift (**a pint**) expressed her love and thanks to Jesus for Himself and for His restoring Lazarus to life.