

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

### Opening

- Gathering: How easy is it to get so caught up in something that you forget its real purpose?
- Today's Focus: Mary's and Martha's love for Jesus gave both good and poor examples of how we are to express our love for Him.
- Key Verses: *"Martha, Martha, " the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed."* Luke 10:41-42
- Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.* Luke 4:8

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

When Did This Story Take Place? (*Luke 10:1-24*)

- After spending the bulk of His ministry in Galilee, where did Jesus focus His last half-year?  
Matthew 19:1
- What date did John give for when Jesus began focusing His ministry in Judea?  
John 7:1-3, 6, 14
- What specific date is given in John that is understood to have been after today's story?  
John 10:22-23
- How did Jesus show it was now time to reveal Himself in Judea as His brothers had suggested?  
Luke 10:1
- How effective were these missionaries?  
Luke 10:17-19

Where Did This Story Take Place? (*Luke 10:38*)

- What did Luke tell us about where today's story took place?  
Luke 10:38
- What village did John tell us this was?  
John 11:1
- Was this the Bethany on the east side of the Jordan where John baptized (John 1:28)?  
John 11:18
- Where did Jesus spend the night when He was in Jerusalem during His last week?  
Mark 11:11

Jesus on the Mount (*Luke 21:37-38*)

- What separated Jerusalem from Bethany that became an important place for Jesus?  
Luke 19:29
- How did Jesus spend His time during the last week of His life?  
Luke 21:37-38
- What happened to Jesus when He was praying on the Mount of Olives one evening?  
Luke 22:39, 47, 54
- What happened when Jesus visited the Mount of Olives for the last time? - Near Bethany  
Luke 24:50-51

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### Mary (*Luke 10:39*)

Who else did Jesus meet in Martha's home?

Luke 10:39

Where else do we see the worship-filled example of Mary?

John 12:1-3

Did this also take place in Martha's house?

Mark 14:3

Did everyone recognize and appreciate Mary's pouring out of love for Jesus?

John 12:4-6

How did Jesus feel about Mary pouring out this bottle of expensive perfume?

Mark 14:6-9

Did Judas like Jesus' explanation and reasoning?

Mark 14:10-11

Where do we find Mary in each of the three times she appears in the Bible?

John 11:32

### Martha (*John 11:17-30*)

What does the story tell us about Martha?

Luke 10:38

How might this hospitality have been especially appreciated by Jesus?

Luke 9:57-58

How did Jesus feel about Martha and her family?

John 11:5

How did Martha feel about Jesus?

John 11:17-20

Did Martha recognize that Jesus was from God?

John 11:21-22

Did she recognize who Jesus really was?

John 11:23-27

How did Martha have one last chance to show her love for Jesus before His death?

John 12:1-2

### Martha's Response to Mary (*Luke 10:40-42*)

How did Martha feel about Mary neglecting the call to serve Jesus and His disciples?

Luke 10:39-40

Why wasn't Martha able to recognize the value of what Mary was doing?

Luke 10:41

What details should Martha be concerned about at this time?

Luke 10:42

Wiersbe: "What we do *with* Christ is far more important than what we do *for* Christ"

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Worship or Serve? (Luke 4:8)

Does this mean that God wants His faithful to live their lives worshipping instead of serving?

James 2:26

So which should we do, worship or serve?

Luke 4:8

Choosing between the Good and the Better

Should I study or should I pray?

Should I witness to an unbeliever or should I care for a Christian brother in need?

Charles Wesley wrote in one of his hymns:

*Faithful to my Lord's commands,  
I still would choose the better part;  
Serve with careful Martha's hands,  
And loving Mary's heart.*

How do we know when and how to worship and to serve?

Matthew 22:35-40

How Should We Serve? (1 Peter 2:12)

Don't we automatically put God first when we serve Him?

Philippians 1:15-17

Will selfish motives prevent God from being glorified?

Philippians 1:18

What is the risk of keeping ourselves very busy in service?

Haggai 1:9

What should be our purpose in serving?

1 Peter 2:12

Martha's Problem (Luke 12:22-34)

How was Martha's problem with priorities made more difficult?

Luke 12:22-23

But didn't Martha have to make sure Jesus and His disciples had something to eat?

Luke 12:24

But we have bills to pay and retirement to save for and jobs to worry about and ...

Luke 12:25-26

But what about our clothes? If we don't worry about them, we'll be naked and catch cold!

Luke 12:27-28

But we need to eat! We'll die if we don't have something to eat or drink!

Luke 12:29-31

Now we need to worry about seeking His kingdom! How do we do that?

Luke 12:32-34

So what should we do when we have worries, try to ignore them or try to solve them?

Philippians 4:6-7

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Saul - The "Do It Yourself" Leader (1 Samuel 13:1-14)

What were Samuel's final instructions to Saul after he anointed him as king over Israel?

1 Samuel 10:1, 8

What happened when Saul went to Gilgal as instructed?

1 Samuel 13:3-7

What did Saul do when he began worrying about his situation?

1 Samuel 13:8-9

Saul had done the right thing by turning to the Lord, right?

1 Samuel 13:10-13

How did God punish Saul for this misguided solution to worry?

1 Samuel 13:14

What should we remember whenever we try to take matters into our own hands?

John 15:5

From Warren Wiersbe:

*Unless we meet Christ personally and privately each day, we will soon end up like Martha: busy but not blessed. Often in my pastoral ministry, I have asked people with serious problems, "Tell me about your devotional life." The usual response has been an embarrassed look, a bowed head, and the quiet confession, "I stopped reading my Bible and praying a long time ago." And they wondered why they had problems!*

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How regularly do I sit at Jesus' feet to learn from Him?  
(Luke 10:39; 12:11-12; Deuteronomy 4:5-14; 31:12-13; Psalm 32:8-9; 119:33-36; 143:10; Matthew 11:29; Romans 15:4; Philippians 4:9; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)
2. How have I poured out my love for Jesus in worship?  
(Mark 14:3-9; 2 Kings 17:36; Psalm 95:6; 100; John 4:21-24; 12:1-8; Romans 12:1)
3. When and how have I offered hospitality to Jesus?  
(Luke 10:38; Matthew 10:40-42; 25:31-46; John 12:1-2; Romans 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9-11)
4. When have I confessed my faith in Jesus to others?  
(John 11:21-27; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15)
5. When have I been so worried and upset about many things that I missed the one thing that was needed?  
(Luke 10:41-42; 12:22-34; Psalm 27:4; 37:4; Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7)