

Martha and Mary

Women in Christ's Ministry · Women of the Bible

These sisters, with their brother Lazarus, provided Christ with friendship and hospitality. Martha's service and Mary's contemplation at Jesus' feet both express devotion, though Christ commended Mary's choice of the 'good part' that would not be taken away.

Note: Martha's confession—"I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God"—parallels Peter's great confession. Both Martha's active service and Mary's contemplative worship find place in godly living, though Jesus prioritized spiritual devotion over anxious activity.

Key Verses

Luke 10:38

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

Luke 10:39

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Luke 10:42

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

John 11:27

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

John 12:3

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

