

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #177

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

The Later Judean Ministry: Jesus Trains His Followers in the Basics of Discipleship

Jesus Teaches on Abiding in His Word: The Example Of Mary and Martha

Luke 10.38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was sitting at the Lord's feet, continuing to soak in what he said.

40 But Martha was totally distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you even care that my sister has left me to do the work all by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 *"Martha, Martha,"* the Lord answered, *"you are worried and upset about so many things, 42 but few things are really necessary--indeed...only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Bethany in Judea, the Home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary
Timeline	October (Month 33)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	I. Jesus Trains His Followers in the Basics of Discipleship
Title	iii. Jesus Teaches on Abiding in His Word: The Example of Martha and Mary

COMMENT:

Today's reading focused on the second core principle of discipleship--the role of God's Word in a life of loving God and others. Mary and Martha, two sisters who lived in Bethany, close by Jerusalem, served as an object lesson for two types of disciples: those who make a practice of continually listening--abiding--in Jesus' Word (Mary), and those who have access to his Word, but allow the distractions of life to drown out its influence on them (Martha).

Jesus had already said that **"a person cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of God's mouth"** (MT 4.4).

Just a few weeks earlier, at the Feast of Tabernacles, he had declared: **"If you abide in My Word, you are truly my disciples"** (JN 8.31). This became standard for all of the first 3120 believers in the Church in Jerusalem, who **"were continually devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching..."** (Acts 2.42A).

Paul would later command: **"Cause the word of Christ to dwell richly within you"** (Col. 3.16).

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Following Jesus means becoming experts on his word by living in it, and causing it to live within us. Mary illustrated this basic discipleship attitude beautifully.

When you love someone supremely you will value their word accordingly. Communication from them will be precious indeed. It makes logical, practical, and spiritual sense that people who love God with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength will treasure his word above anything else on this earth.

God's word is the only thing that we will take of out of this life with us into heaven, other than our relationship with him. It is a disciple's eternal heritage, and home.

I have included a link to an extended study of this passage. Please give it your careful attention. Living like Mary is an essential requirement for following Jesus. Here is the link: [The One Essential Choice](#)

APPLICATION:

What do you need to do to improve the quality or consistency of your daily time reading God's Word?