

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Valerie Surrett

MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE: MARTHA AND MARY

Luke 10:38-42 - Jesus entered the home of Martha and Mary. Martha busied herself with serving, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to His words. Martha became troubled and frustrated, but Jesus gently reminded her that "one thing is needful," and Mary had chosen the better part.

Are You a Martha or a Mary?

Some believers naturally serve actively like Martha, while others prioritize quiet worship and devotion like Mary. Jesus did not reject Martha's service, nor did He condemn Mary's worship. Instead, He revealed the importance of proper priorities.

Appreciating One Another

"Marys" Need to Appreciate "Marthas"

- Service itself can be worship.
- **Colossians 3:23** - Faithful service honors God.

"Marthas" Need to Appreciate "Marys"

- Worship is also service unto the Lord.
- **Romans 12:1** - Time spent with Jesus is never wasted.

The Church Needs Both

- Workers and worshipers
- Servers and intercessors
- Practical helpers and devoted disciples

Priorities Matter

- Jesus taught Martha that some things can wait, but His presence should never be neglected.
- **Luke 10:42** - "One thing is needful."
- **Psalm 27:4** - David also understood the importance of seeking God above everything else.

When God Delays

- **John 11:1-7**
- When Lazarus became sick, Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus. Yet Jesus delayed coming.
 1. Delay Does Not Mean Disfavor
 - a. **John 11:3,5**
 - b. Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus deeply.
 - c. God's love is not measured by how quickly He answers.

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2. Delay Can Be Connected to a Higher Purpose

a. **John 11:4**

b. Sometimes God allows waiting because He is preparing something greater.

3. God Is Closer Than You Think

a. **John 11:18**

b. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem.

c. Even when God seems distant, He is near.

Lessons From Martha and Mary During Grief - John 11:17-45

Go to Jesus Even When You Do Not Understand

- **John 11:20** - Martha went out to meet Jesus.
- Faith continues pursuing Christ even through disappointment.

Speak Honestly From Your Heart

- **John 11:21** - Jesus welcomes honest prayer.

Jesus Rebuilds Faith

- **John 11:25** - Jesus shifted Martha's focus from circumstances to Himself.

Jesus Feels Your Pain

- **John 11:35** - "Jesus wept." The Savior is compassionate and moved by human sorrow.

Do Not Let Unbelief Undermine Your Faith

- **John 11:37** - Some doubted Jesus despite His miracles.
- Do not allow negative voices to weaken your confidence in God.

Don't Be Too Practical for Your Own Good

- **John 11:39** - Martha focused on the natural condition of Lazarus.
- Faith must sometimes move beyond human reasoning.

Focus on the Lord More Than People

- **John 11:41-42** - Jesus prayed publicly so others would believe.
- Keep your eyes on God's purpose rather than public opinion.

Miracles Draw People to the Lord

- **John 11:43-45** - Lazarus was raised from the dead, and many believed in Jesus.
- God's works reveal His glory and bring people to faith.

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Worshiping the Lord

- **John 12:1-8** - After Lazarus was raised, Mary worshiped Jesus with costly ointment.

Give God Your Best

- **John 12:3** - Mary gave something precious and sacrificial.
- True worship costs something.

Ignore the Critics

- **John 12:4-6** - Judas criticized Mary's worship, but his motives were wrong.
- Not everyone will understand your devotion to Christ.

Your Worship Matters More Than You Know

- **John 12:7** - Jesus defended Mary's act of worship.
- What is done sincerely for Christ is never forgotten.

Conclusion

- **Matthew 22:37-40**
- Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is to love God completely and to love others sincerely.

Martha and Mary remind us that:

- Service matters
- Worship matters
- Faith matters
- Love for Jesus must come first

The Lord desires believers who both serve faithfully and worship wholeheartedly.

- One thing is truly needful: Jesus.
- Service without worship becomes burden.
- Worship without action becomes incomplete.
- God's delays are never without purpose.
- Jesus understands grief and pain.
- Faith must rise above practicality and doubt.
- Worship should be wholehearted and sacrificial.
- The church needs both Marthas and Marys.