



The Morning After for Mary and Martha
based on Luke 10:38–42

Participants

Scripture reader, Mary, Martha

Setting:

A contemporary home kitchen with a table and two chairs placed at the front of the sanctuary. A teapot and two cups are on the table. A crocheted blanket is on the back of one of the chairs.

Martha is seated in the other chair. Behind her is a laundry basket full of dirty clothes and linens.

Mary enters. Both characters are dressed in contemporary style.

They stay still during the reading of scripture.

Reader: Luke 10:38-42 *(Reader moves out of scene. Mary and Martha come to life.)*

Martha: Good morning, sleepy-head. Your breakfast is ready, but can you sit with me first? I need to talk.

Mary: Oh...okay! I need a cup of tea first, though. Is there still some in the pot?

Martha: *(sarcastically)* Of course, Mary. When have I not had hot tea ready for my dear sister?

Mary: Ouch! What's with you? Didn't you have fun last night? Lazarus and I sure enjoyed ourselves. Talking with Jesus was so inspiring!

Martha: Hmmm.... Was it? I saw you and Lazarus hanging on his every word while I got supper ready.

Mary: Ah, c'mon Martha. If you would just leave the kitchen once in a while and sit with the rest of us, you would be more relaxed. Didn't you hear what Jesus said to you last night when you bugged him about me not helping you? You did sound a bit whiney with your complaints.

Martha: *(again, sarcastically)* Nice, Mary.... Oh, I heard him all right!

Mary: *(reaching across to take Martha's hand; Martha pulling away and folding her arms)*
You are just overtired, Martha. I know you worked hard preparing that feast yesterday, and I saw how you fussed cleaning the house and setting up all the tables and decorating for our guests.

Martha: Exactly! I am tired.... I am tired *every_day* while you sit and think your great thoughts, or chat and make plans with your friends and Lazarus, or take off after Jesus to hear his latest speech!

Mary: Wow! You are ticked! You seemed to listen to Jesus last night when he told you to just “let it be.” You do get worked up for nothing! I thought you understood him.

Martha: Oh, I understood him all right! I need to be more like you, listening to him teach about God’s plan for us all. And then what? If I go traipsing after Jesus like you do, who is going to get things done around here? Who will get the groceries? Who will keep the house tidy? Who will make all the meals? Who will make the pot of tea? You like clean clothes, Mary! Who do you think does all that laundry?

Mary: Did you stay awake all night fussing about this, Martha? You were so polite after Jesus answered your question about why I wasn’t helping you more.

Martha: *(throwing up her hands in the air)* Of course, I was awake all night...thinking and brooding. Sure, I would like to be more like you. I love Jesus, just like you do. He is a wonderful man, and I know God has special plans for him and for us!! Jesus has done amazing things, just like you have told me. But I am hurt. What about me? What does that really look like for me? I can’t help it—there is always just so much to do around here.

Mary: I’m sorry, Martha. I guess my head is in the clouds these days. Jesus’ work seems so important, and I am afraid I just take you for granted.

Mary reaches out to take Martha’s hand and Martha accepts the gesture.

Martha: Thanks, Mary. I was hoping you would understand...just a little.

Mary: I tell you what, Martha. Let’s do the laundry together today. Then you can have some time to yourself later this morning. And I’ll make lunch!

Martha: Okay, Mary. Sounds like a deal. But you’ll have to pay attention to what I show you. You can’t mix the dark-coloured clothes with light-coloured clothes.

Both start laughing.

Mary: Okay, Martha. You teach me! Then after lunch, let’s both catch up with Jesus and Lazarus and the rest of the followers. We both have a lot to learn...

And both leave the skit area.....

Thank you Ladies..... giving us lots to think on. Gail.