



# Martha of Bethany

Easton's Bible Dictionary describes the Biblical town of Bethany as "remarkably beautiful, the perfection of retirement and repose, of seclusion and lovely peace." With such a description, it's no wonder that Jesus visited Bethany on many occasions! It is at this valley oasis, a convenient and easy one-hour walk from Jerusalem, that we spot Jesus frequently visiting his dear friends - siblings Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

Brother Lazarus became the talk of not only Bethany, but nearby Jerusalem as well, when his friend Jesus raised him from the dead.

Sister Mary was often found sitting at Jesus' feet, listening and learning.

And Martha? Martha was busy about her home, engaged in creating a refuge, a place of rest and refreshment for those who entered. Jesus and His disciples were blessed by Martha's hospitality on several occasions. Jesus Himself affirmed to Martha that her life's work was *needed*. Why, then, did Jesus gently chastise Martha as she served in this role that one particular visit? Wasn't she simply performing the rites of hospitality that made her home a place of refreshment & rest? It was Martha's focus that particular day that derailed her. In Martha's quest for a Pinterest-worthy evening that Martha Stewart would envy, she robbed herself of the opportunity to refresh & fellowship with Jesus. She focused on {over}doing - a common malady in our day - a mistake we do not see her repeating later at Simon's house. As such, she is an example to us of Proverbs 13:18 -

“Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame,  
but whoever heeds correction is honored.”

1. List all the “facts” you know about Martha of Bethany from the today’s Bible reading.

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Day 1

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Read

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-12:11

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2. Research and describe the world in which Martha lived.

1. Write a character sketch of Martha based on what is revealed about her life, her choices and her actions from today's readings. (Think: character qualities)

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Day 2

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Reread

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-12:11

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2. What can you infer about Martha's thoughts or beliefs based on her actions?

1. What pivotal point(s) in Martha's life do you see?  
What was her response to each?

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Day 3

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Reread

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-12:11

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2. What can we learn from Martha's life or her example? Be specific.

1. How do you relate to Martha of Bethany or elements from her story?

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Day 4

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Reread

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-12:11

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2. What is God showing you through Martha's testimony?

1. What overall theme(s) do you notice in Martha's life?

2. From the above list, pick the one theme God is impressing upon you and research what His Word has to say on that specific topic.

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**Day 5**

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**Reread**

**Luke 10:38-42**

**John 11:1-12:11**

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3. Write a third person introduction to Martha of Bethany below based on your personal application from today.