

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MARTHA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 15

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Salome** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Luke 10:38-42

2. In **V38**, what did Martha do for Jesus as He came through her village with His disciples?

3. a) What do you think "opened her home" meant in terms of preparations?

- b) Given there were likely thirteen men, what do you appreciate about Martha?

4. Who else was present, and what was she doing? (**V39**)

5. a) In your own words, what was going on with Martha in **V40**?

- b) Can you relate to Martha? How or when?

6. As you read Jesus' response in **V41-42**:

- a) What was His main message?

- b) Put yourself in Martha's shoes; how would you have received it?

7. In your opinion, did Jesus mean she shouldn't attend to domestic tasks or even His earthly needs?

8. What worries, busyness, or preparations take you away from “sitting at His feet”?

9. Describe a situation where you may be serving Jesus yet not communing with Him.

SECTION II: Read John 11:1-44

10. In **V1-3**, what was the situation, and who had sent word to Jesus?

11. What will happen as a result of Lazarus' sickness according to **V4**?

12. a) After reading **V5-7**, what do we find out about Jesus' relationship to the three siblings?

b) What is surprising about how Jesus handled the situation?

13. a) Pick out one thing that interests you about Jesus' teaching in **V8-16**.

b) Summarize **V17-20**.

14. How do you interpret what Martha said to Jesus upon His arrival:

V21 _____

V22 _____

15. After reading the amazing conversation Martha had with Jesus in **V21-27**:

a) What seemed to be her initial desire for and understanding of resurrection?

b) How does Jesus grow her understanding of resurrection and ultimately her faith?

16. Recall a time when you, like Martha, were sure of God's power but wrestled with His delay. How did this grow your faith?

17. Briefly describe what took place from **V28-37**.

18. In light of **V22**, comment on Martha's reaction in **V38-39**.

19. a) Read the rest of the story. How does Jesus continue to strengthen her faith?

b) Though you may never see a physical resurrection, what are ways God strengthens your faith today?

20. After reading **John 12:1-3**, what do you observe about Martha?

21. Martha's life had a combination of the "good, bad, and ugly." What is the one thing you want to apply to your life from her example?

22. Write a prayer based on this lesson.

DIGGING DEEPER

While Martha found herself dealing with many earthly cares, Jesus was so faithful to keep turning her gaze toward the eternal. When we gaze at God's eternal priorities, earthly concerns grow dim, taking their rightful place in our lives.

1. From the following verses, pick one aspect that guides you in your pursuit of the eternal:

Matthew 6:33-34 _____

Philippians 3:13-15 _____

2. The world has many distractions. See how God's Word gives perspective on some of them:

- Beauty (**1 Samuel 16:7**) _____
- Possessions (**Matthew 6:19-21**) _____
- Food and Clothing (**Luke 12:22-26**) _____
- Relationships (**Luke 14:26-27**) _____
- Sports and Fitness (**1 Timothy 4:8**) _____
- Money (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**) _____

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **John 11:25**

