

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MARY OF BETHANY

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 16

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

SECTION I: Read Luke 10:38-42

2. In **V38**, who was coming to Martha's home, and how many guests would that most likely be?

3. Who was also there, and what was she doing in **V39**?

4. If Mary was sitting and listening, what must Jesus have been doing, and what wasn't Mary doing?

5. Why do you think Mary stopped everything and gave her full attention to Jesus?

6. Recount a time when your attention was gripped by something and all else became secondary.

7. a) What was Martha upset about in **V40**?

b) In your opinion, what was Mary thinking and feeling as her sister vented to Jesus?

8. Read **V41-42**, what was Jesus' reply to Martha's request?

9. a) Why did Jesus commend Mary for doing the "one thing" that is needed?

b) Comment on His statement, "it will not be taken away from her." (**V42b**)

10. Based on the ways you choose to spend your time, what would Jesus say is your priority in life?

11. Scripture validates a good work ethic and the gift of hospitality. How can someone balance the tension between the busyness of life and the “one thing” that is needed?

SECTION II: Read John 11:1-44

12. As you read **V1-16**:

- a) What facts do you learn about Mary, and which character traits surface?

- b) What did Jesus say about Lazarus' sickness?

13. Regarding Mary, what do you notice from **V17-31** when Jesus arrived in Bethany?

V19 _____
V20 _____
V28 _____
V29 _____

14. Which words would you use to describe Mary as you contrast how she interacted with Jesus (**V32-33a**) versus Martha (**V20-21**)?

15. Although both sisters made the identical statement to Jesus (**V21, 32**), He responded differently. . .He taught Martha (**V23-27**); He wept with Mary (**V33-36**). In your opinion, what might have fostered Mary's intimate exchange with Him?

16. a) Which attributes of Jesus do you see in **V33-44**?

- b) What do you think Mary experienced when she saw this?

17. Mary cried out to Jesus and Jesus cried out to the Father. To whom do you cry out when faced with difficulties?

SECTION III: Read John 12:1-8

18. From **V1-3**, what impresses you most about what Mary was doing?

19. In the heat of criticism **again**, how does Jesus affirm Mary **again** in **V4-8**?

20. a) We see Mary sitting at His feet, falling at His feet, and anointing His feet. What is your favorite aspect of Mary that you want to apply to your own life?

b) Write a prayer about it.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. a) Just as Mary spent time at the feet of Jesus, Jesus—the Son of God—also spent time with His Father. As you read through the following Scriptures, how did spending time with His Father impact how Jesus spent His time?

Describe Time Spent with His Father

Prepared Him for What?

Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 14:13-21

Matthew 14:22-33

Luke 5:15-16

Luke 6:12-13

Matthew 26:36-46

Luke 23:44-46

b) What general or specific application can you draw for yourself from observing Jesus?

2. Suggested Memory Verse: **Romans 12:1**

