

People of the Bible

Mary, Martha and Lazarus

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were from Bethany and were disciples with whom Jesus had a special bond of love and friendship.

John's Gospel records that "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus" (John 11:5). On one occasion, Martha welcomed Jesus into their home for a meal. While Martha did all the work, Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His Word, and was commended by Jesus for choosing the "good portion, which will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-42).

When their brother Lazarus died, Jesus spoke to Martha this beautiful Gospel promise: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:39-54).

Ironically, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jews became more determined than ever to kill Jesus (John 11:39-54). Six days before Jesus was crucified, Mary anointed His feet with a very expensive fragrant oil and wiped them with her hair, not knowing at the time that she was doing it in preparation for Jesus' burial (John 12:1-8; Matthew 26:6-13).