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A Biographical Study of Martha

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Martha

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. Martha's agitation concerning her sister Mary

A. Her complaint to Jesus

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me" (Luke 10:38-40).

B. Her correction by Jesus

1. What she had been doing—"And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41).
2. What she should be doing—"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

II. Martha's anguish concerning her brother Lazarus

A. The dying brother

1. Her message to Jesus—"Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:1-3).
2. Her meeting with Jesus—"Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house" (John 11:20).
 - a. Martha's frustration—"Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (John 11:21).
 - b. Martha's faith
 - (1) In the promise of Christ—"But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:22-25).
 - (2) In the person of Christ—"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou are the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" (John 11:26-27).

3. Her mission for Jesus—“And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee” (John 11:28).
- B. The dead brother
1. The request—“Jesus said, Take ye away the stone” (John 11:39a).
 2. The reluctance—“Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead four days” (John 11:39b).
 3. The reminder—“Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” (John 11:40).
- C. The delivered brother—“Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him” (John 12:1-2).

STATISTICS

Brother: Lazarus

Sister: Mary

First mention: Luke 10:38

Final mention: John 12:2

Meaning of her name: “Lady, mistress”

Frequency of her name: Referred to 12 times

Biblical books mentioning her: Two books (Luke, John)

Important fact about her life: She saw Christ raise her dead brother Lazarus