

10-2018

## A Biographical Study of Mary the Sister of Martha

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt\\_biographies](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt_biographies)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "A Biographical Study of Mary the Sister of Martha" (2018). *New Testament Biographies*. 19.

[https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt\\_biographies/19](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt_biographies/19)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the A Biographical Study of Individuals of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Testament Biographies by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact [scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu](mailto:scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu).

# *Mary, the Sister of Martha*

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Mary, the Bible student—“Which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word” (Luke 10:39b). “Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42b).
- II. Mary, the bereaved sister
  - A. 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).
  - B. Her meeting with Jesus—“Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 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. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him” (John 11:24, 28-29).
    1. The sorrow of the sister—“Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died” (John 11:32).
    2. The sorrow of the Savior—“When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled” (John 11:33).
- III. Mary, the bountiful servant—“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).
  - A. Her gift was precious.
    1. The cost—“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment” (John 12:3).
    2. The criticism—“When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was” (John 11:4-6).
  - B. Her gift was prophetic.
    1. In regard to the burial of Christ—“And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying” (Mark 14:6-8).

2. In regard to the body of Christ (the church)—“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her” (Matt. 26:13).

## **STATISTICS**

*Brother:* Lazarus

*Sister:* Martha

*First mention:* Luke 10:39

*Final mention:* John 12:3

*Meaning of her name:* “Bitter”

*Frequency of her name:* Referred to 11 times

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

*Important fact about her life:* She prepared the body of Christ for burial while he was still living by anointing it with precious oil.