

Witness

Tale of Two Martha's



**"I am an historian, I am not a believer,
but I must confess as a historian that this
penniless preacher from Nazareth is
irrevocably the very centre of history.
Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant
figure in all history." H.G. Wells**



"You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room." "Frequently." "How often?"

"Well, some hundreds of times."

"Then how many are there?"

"How many? I don't know."

"Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both **seen and **observed**."**



Now Jesus **loved** Martha and her
sister (Mary) and Lazarus. **John 11:5**



We know little about the background of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. They may have been well-to-do orphans who had the management of their own lives, since there is no mention of their parents. Moreover the **eldest of the three, Martha,** appeared to be in control of the household.

It is more likely that Martha was a wealthy widow who took care of her younger siblings



Martha's Story

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named **Martha** opened her home to him. **Luke 10:38**



She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. vs 39



But Martha was **distracted** by all the **preparations** that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, **don't you care** that my sister has left **me to do the work by myself?** Tell her to help me!" **vs 40**



The Jewish view of "faith,"

Faith is active and includes the "**works**" of following Torah. The foundational statement of faith in Judaism is the "Shema," from Deuteronomy 6:4. The term "hear" means to hear and respond obediently. Faith and obedience are woven together.

Walking in God's Torah is a sign of established faith, as founded in:
Exodus 16:4; Leviticus 18:3-4



Luke 10

Sending the 72

Good Samaritan

Martha and Mary



The Faithless 60

After this the Lord appointed **seventy-two** others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. **Luke 10:1**

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." vs 23-24



The Faithless 60

At that time Jesus, **full of joy through the Holy Spirit**, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do." **vs 21**

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "**Does this offend you?** From this time **many of his disciples turned back** and no longer followed him. **John 6:61, 66**



The Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must **I do** to **inherit** eternal life?" **Luke 10:25**

"how do I earn my salvation thus insuring my admittance into heaven?"

But he wanted to **justify himself**, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" **vs 29**



The Good Samaritan

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and **do likewise." vs 36-37**

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **You Samaritans worship what you do not know... John 4:22-22**

who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; **but the people there did not welcome him Luke 9:52-53**



"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." vs 41-42

There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her. vs 42 NLT



**If you are concerned about earning
God's favour/love you will be
equally dismayed about your sin**

**Our actions positive and negative distract
us from the one "good" thing, Jesus**



Lessons from Luke 10

The 60 experienced the power of Jesus but never crossed over into faith and trust

The Good Samaritan left by itself leads the listener to believe that behaviour is all Jesus requires

Martha had the Messiah in her living room but never "saw" who He was



You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but **on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.**

Matthew 23:27-28

““These people honour me with their lips, but their **hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are **merely human rules.**””**

Matthew 15:8-9 quoting Isaiah 29:13



Easter is the radical transformation of the requirements of faith. God moves past our hard outer shell of behaviour to wrestle with our darkness we hide within.

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your **heart and with all your **soul** and with all your **strength** and with all your **mind**"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" **Luke 10:27****

**belief must precede behaviour,
behaviour is a reflection of belief**



"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." Timothy J. Keller



"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."** John 11:21-22

and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this? vs 26

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." vs 27

