**R875\_Rumination for October 31, 2010**

The **T**heme: **Mary at Jesus’ Feet** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *She had a sister called Mary, which also sat* ***at Jesus' feet****, and heard His word.*Luke 10:39

The **T**hots:

Intro. Mary, the sister of Martha, is mentioned on three occasions in the N.T and always at ***the feet of Jesus***

1. **Mary sat at Jesus’ Feet listening to His Word.** **Lk. 10:39-42**
2. **C**ompare the two sisters’ **C**hief pre-occupation:

**M**ary: She *sat at* ***Jesus' feet****, and heard His word.* 10:39

1. **M**artha: She was **C**umbered about much serving, 10:40

*and* ***C****ame to Him* to **C**omplain: *Lord, dost thou not* ***C****are that my sister hath left me to serve alone?*

*bid her therefore that she help me.*

1. But **M**ary had **M**ade a better **C**hoice: 10:41-42

*Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art* ***C****areful and troubled about many things:*

*But one thing is needful: and Mary hath* ***C****hosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

* **F**irst**, S**it at the ***F****eet of Jesus* to learn His **W**ord, then only, **W**ork for Him according to His **W**ord.

1. **Mary was at Jesus’ feet Weeping.** **Jn. 11:32**, **33**

*Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down* ***at His feet****,*

*When Jesus therefore saw her weeping…He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,*

Cf. *(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair,*

*whose brother Lazarus was sick.)* Jn, 11:2 See #C

1. The **S**isters **S**ent for Jesus earlier: *Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is* ***S****ick.* 11:3
2. The Lord **D**elayed his going until Lazarus **D**ied - for a **D**ivine Purpose:

*This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*

1. After two **D**ays, He left. *Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is* ***D****ead.*  11:14
2. Consider Jesus’ **D**edicated Love for Lazarus –
3. *Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, He whom Thou lovest is sick* 11:3
4. *Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!* 11:35, 35
5. *Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave.* 11:38
6. Jesus **D**eclared Himself as the Life and brought Lazarus back to Life: 11:41-44
7. Jesus’ **D**eclaration: *Jesus said…* 11:25

*I am the resurrection, and the* ***L****ife: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he* ***L****ive:*

1. Jesus Raised the **D**ead to **L**ife: 11:41-43

*Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid.*

*And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that Thou hast heard Me.*

*…And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*

*And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes:*

*and his face was bound about with a napkin.*

1. Jesus **D**irected them*,* ***L****oose him, and* ***L****et him go.*

* Many Christians have been raised to Life, but are still bound by their grave-clothes.

They needed to be **L**oosed – to walk in their new Life!

* Mary was *at the* ***F****eet* of Jesus to learn that He Cared – His timing was never too late!

1. **Mary was at Jesus’ Feet Worshipping.** **Jn. 12:3**

*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.*

1. The **R**ejoicing over the **R**aising of Lazarus. At the Supper…

Martha **C**ontinued to **S**erve while Lazarus **S**at at the head. Jn. 13:1, 2

*There they made Him a supper…Martha served: but Lazarus… sat at the table with Him*

1. Mary **C**ontributed her **C**ostly Spikenard to anoint the feet of Jesus. *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* 12:3

1. Judas **C**riticised Mary: *Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?*

*This he said, not that he* ***C****ared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag,*

*and bare what was put therein.* 12:4-6

1. Mary’s **A**ct **A**nticipated the **C**ross of **C**hrist: 12:7

*Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of My burying hath she kept this.*

* Is **M**oney-**M**aking a better **M**eans to keep you away from the **M**emorial of the Lord’s Supper?

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,*

*My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.* Isaac Watts

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 875**

1. Mary sat at Jesus’ feet to learn His Word from the Lord Himself. Martha, her sister complained to the Master that her sister by right should be helping her with her preparation to show hospitality to Him. She was ever so busy! It is recorded that *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 10:40).

But, instead of heeding her complaint, *Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.* (Lk. 10:41, 42).

Martha was *distracted*…*and worried and troubled about many things*” (NKJV). On the other hand, the Lord pointed out, “**O*ne thing is needed****, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her*." (Luke 10:42, NKJV)

Mary got her priorities right. Hospitality to the Master is great especially when it comes from a sincere and loving heart; likewise, any service unto the Lord for and among His people as well as to those outside the Kingdom of Heaven.

But to do all these, one needs to sit at the Lord’s feet first to learn His Will through His Word. It is only then that one can know what is needed to be done according to His plan and to do it according to His ways. Without sitting at His feet to learn from Him, what is done or to be done is at best according to one’s ways and not His. That cannot please Him!

To conclude, Service can and must only come after Sitting at His feet. Do Search and Study, and know His Word before getting involved in His Work. This is the only Way to ensure that your Work is according to His Will. Be Wise and do likewise.

Have you got your priorities right? **REFLECT**

1. Among other things, “*at His feet*” may also be the position and posture of worship. The first occurrence of the word *worship* (Heb. *shāḥâ,* translated *worship* in Gen. 22:5) occurs in Gen. 18:2 where we read of Abraham bowing himself to the ground in the presence of the angels, one of whom was the pre-incarnate Lord Himself – *And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,* i.e. at their feet in an act of worship. Likewise, Lot did the same before the two angels – *Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;* (Gen. 19:1).

Its Greek equivalent: *proskyneō* in Matt. 2:11 is translated *worshipped*, thus – *they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and* ***worshipped*** *Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh*.

Thus, to be at the feet, cast prostrate on the ground, is a position of worship.

Therefore, when *Mary* (took) *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* she was in an act or position or posture of worship, and in anointing His feet with her very costly spikenard and wiping it with her hair she was in reality laying her *glory* (*her long hair*, I Cor. 11:15) at the feet of Jesus and worshipping Him,

No wonder the fragrance of her worship filled the house – *The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.* John 12:3(NRSV)

Can you inspire the house with your participation to fill it with worship unto the Lord?

**REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** Lay the Glory of your Head at the Lord’s Feet to Worship Him!