

## “Crazy Busy”

### Luke 10:38-42

Feb. 12, 2023

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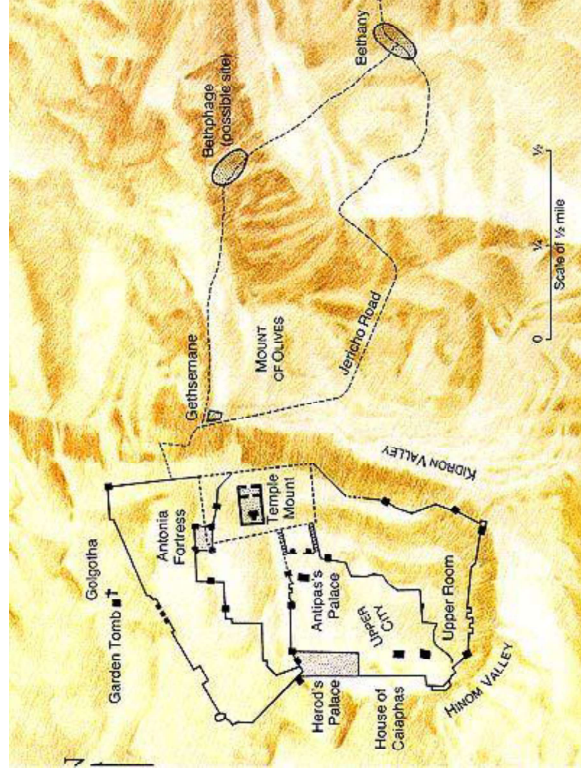
- This account is only found in Luke.
- We are thankful that Luke included it. Extremely helpful.
- We are about 6 months away from the crucifixion.
- Jesus and His disciples are still crisscrossing the land and stopping at small villages to preach and teach.
- So here He enters the village of Bethany.

#### John 11:17-19

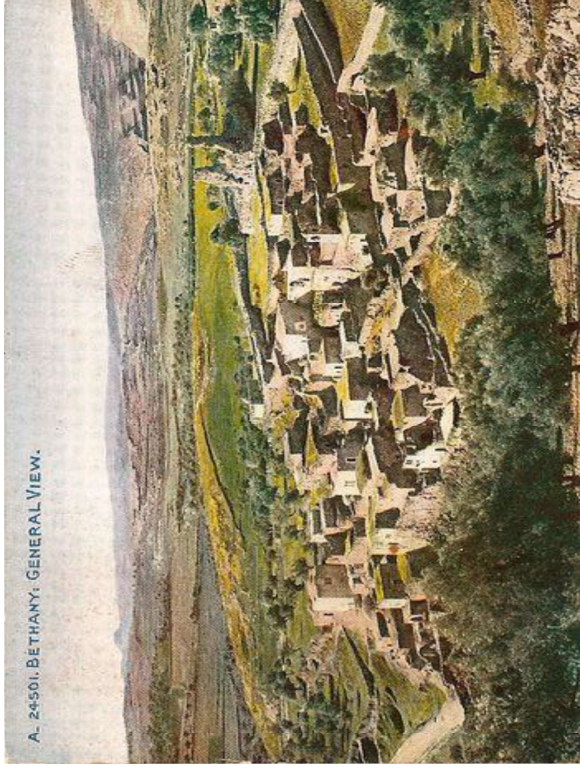
17 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

18 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

19 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.







### 38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

- Language seems to indicate that Jesus did not know Martha.
- Martha was probably the oldest.
- Lived with Mary and Lazarus.

“welcomed” – *προδεξομαι* – to receive, to embrace warmly, to be excited and happy to see someone.

- Indicates they were believers.

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- So here is the scene.
- Martha heads to the kitchen.
- Mary heads to the floor.
- Followed Jesus right into the living room.
- "What an opportunity," she thought.
- We know nothing about Mary. She is a nobody who becomes a somebody for all of the ages.
- We do know her heart was right. She wanted to soak in the Word from Jesus. She wanted to hear the truth.
- She wanted to hear Jesus maybe explain the Kingdom, or tell parables or ???
- "He who has an ear, let him hear." Mount of Transfiguration, "Listen to my Son!"
- And really isn't that the most important characteristic we want to know about someone? Do they Him and do they love His Word?
- She got as close as she could to Jesus. In that culture, that was a no-no for women. Rabbi's wouldn't allow it.
- Remember the prostitute who came into Simon the Pharisee's house in Luke 7 and wept on the feet of Jesus. That was forbidden in that culture.
- But there was no other place Mary would rather be.
- Now that is a disciple!

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

- Now we switch over to Martha.
- She headed for the kitchen. She is probably a type A. Very project oriented.
- “distracted” – *περισταω* – to be encumbered with care for something, to be dragged away.
- Martha was pulled away by the busyness of preparing the meal.
- Maybe she was just going to check on things in the kitchen and then 1 thing became 2 and 2 became 4 and 4 became 8 and 8 became 16, etc.
- Martha had a host of things on her mind:
  - the number of people she would serve
  - which saucepan for this
  - which pot for that
  - how is the roast doing?
  - is it time to put in the vegetables?
  - there is cleaning, peeling, chopping,
  - how soon will this be done, how soon will that be done
  - Martha is watching it all simmering and roasting and baking while putting more wood on the fire and wondering what does everyone want to drink? After all, these are her favorite recipes.
  - Then there is the table – she needs to arrange the dinner table with the salad forks to the left of the dinner forks, fold the napkins, etc., etc., etc. – a million things to do.
- “And what about the dessert, I haven’t even thought about getting the dessert ready.” After all, this is Jesus and everything must be just perfect.

**40** But *Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."*

- But Martha becomes frustrated, irritated, annoyed, angry, exasperated.
- "She came up to Him" – **ἐπισημῆσαι** – to make a stand, to come instantly or suddenly up to something, exploded.
- So she has finally had enough so she thinks – "Here I am in this stinking hot kitchen slaving away to make my little sister gets to sit peacefully, quietly in the living room listening to Jesus. This just isn't fair! You know this meal isn't going to make itself!"
- Martha was no longer serving the Lord, she was serving the dinner. She had become a slave of the dinner.
- She was overloaded and she wanted help.
- So she comes charging out of the kitchen and confronts Jesus. Notice she calls Him Lord.
- She does not confront her sister. So she thinks, "Jesus is the problem here and He has the authority to stop it."
- But Jesus came to teach the truth. He didn't care about the meal at that point.
- Hospitality is important but not right now.

#### **John 12:1-2**

- 12:1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.
- 2 There they made Him a supper, and Martha served.
- Martha scolds Jesus. Can you imagine? This is what happens when busyness with stuff and things takes over our lives. We do irrational things.
  - She doesn't wait for an answer.
  - Martha commands Jesus to do something. Crazy Busy becomes Crazy Martha. We have all been there at one time or another.

**41** But the Lord answered and said to her, "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;*

- 7 other times in scripture a name is doubled - Abraham; Jacob; Moses; Samuel; Jerusalem; Simeon; Saul.
- It is a way of appealing to people. It is a gentle correction.
- "worried and bothered" - feeling anxious and upset.

#### **Mark 4:19-20**

19 but the **worries** of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and **choke the word**, and it becomes unfruitful.

"so many things" – it wasn't 1 or 2 things but many. At this point in time, they were unnecessary things.

- Martha's problem was that she had elevated cooking to a higher place than hearing the Word being taught.
- God said, "Listen to my Son!"

**42** but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

- What a liberating statement: In life, only 1 thing is necessary, only 1 thing is #1, only one thing is numero uno.
- Food won't save you and transform your life, neither will your car, your house, your job, your spouse, your children, your relatives, your politics, your country, your cell phone, your music, your computer, your TV, your sports teams, your entertainment. Only Jesus Christ and His Word.
- In comparison to hearing the truth of the Word of God, they are not even close in importance.
- Mary chose the right thing, the most important thing.

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#### **Matt 4:4**

4 "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

#### **Matt 6:33**

33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

#### **Ps 27:4**

4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord

And to meditate in His temple.

#### **Phil 3:13-14**

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."**

- One writer notes that something eternal is cooking in this home in Bethany, but it's not in the kitchen. That meal will soon be consumed and forgotten. But the meal Jesus is serving in the living room will last forever.
- What Mary chose, she will have for all eternity.

**Consider this . . .**

Your wealth here will pass away,  
your vocation here will pass away,  
your family here will pass away,  
your relationships will pass away,  
the institutions that you invest your  
life in will pass away,  
the communities that you invest  
yourselves in will pass away  
but the eternal Word of God will not pass away.  
It is the **one necessary thing**.

**Isa 40:8**

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the word of our God stands forever.

**Application**

1. The best seat is on the floor.
2. You will never end up at Jesus' feet by accident.
3. Just because you can do something, does not mean you ought to do something.
4. Mary chose the important over the urgent, the better over the good.
5. Are you too busy serving Him that you have no time to love Him & listen to Him?