

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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January 29, 2023

“Martha And Mary”

By Mark Mayberry



The Bible records that Jesus loved Martha, her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus (John 11:5; cf. 13:23). They lived in Bethany, a village on the southeastern slopes of Mount Olivet, situated about two miles east of Jerusalem near the Jericho road. Luke 10:38-42 records an occasion when Jesus visited their home, enjoying rest and offering guidance. The differing actions of Martha and Mary teach several valuable lessons.

The Importance of Hospitality

This text reminds us of the importance of hospitality. *“Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home”* (Luke 10:38). Furthermore, she was busy in preparing and serving a meal to Jesus and possibly also his disciples (vs. 40).

The New Testament repeatedly affirms the importance of hospitality. The Greek noun *philoxenia*, translated “hospitality,” literally “the love of strangers,” refers to a welcoming attitude toward people, both known and unknown (Rom. 12:10-13, esp. vs. 13; Heb. 13:1-2; esp. vs. 2). Hospitality should be characteristic of elders (1 Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7-8), widows indeed (1 Tim. 5:9-10), and disciples in general (1 Pet. 4:7-11).

The Importance of Hearing

This text reminds us of the importance of hearing. Mary, the sister of Martha, “was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word” (Luke 10:39).

In both the Old and New Testaments, saints and sinners alike are admonished to *“Hear the word of the Lord...”* Consider the call of Isaiah the prophet (Isa. 1:10; 28:14; 39:5; 66:5). Note the admonitions of Jesus, with His emphasis on the necessity of obedience (Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28; John 8:42-47).

God offers salvation to lost mankind through His revealed word (Luke 16:27-31). Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:5-17, esp. vs. 17). Are we allowing the gospel, the word of truth, to bear fruit in our lives (Colossians 1:3-12)?

The Importance of Focus

This text reminds us of the importance of focus. Distracted with all her preparations, Martha yielded to frustration, saying, *“Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.”* Jesus gently replied, *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her”* (Luke 10:40-42).

Anxiety and mental distress can distract us from seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:24-34; 12:22-32). In the Parable of the Sower, the seed which fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s Word, but subsequently are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and thus bring no fruit to maturity (Luke 8:7, 14). Following the example of Jesus, let us maintain spiritual focus (John 4:31-34), laboring not for food which perishes, but rather for that which endures to eternal life (John 6:26-27).

Conclusion

May we learn the lessons of Martha and Mary, recognizing the importance of showing hospitality, hearing the word of God, and maintaining proper spiritual focus. Wisdom cries aloud in the streets, lifting up her voice in the square, calling the wayward to repentance and obedience (Prov. 1:20-23). Isaiah echoes the same call (Isa. 55:1-3), as does our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).

“To You Who Bring Small Children To Church”

By Steven Hunter

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing.

Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you - you mothers and/or fathers - to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often fills alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes - if but for a moment - her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you - a young family - in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

The family who's unable to have children notice you too. They'd love to be in your shoes, but for whatever reasons, they are unable to bear children. They've thought about adopting, but they're not sure if that's what they want to do or if they will keep on trying to have children of their own. They'd love to talk to you for a little while about the joys of your children. They need you.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."* The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.



Memory Verse of the Week:

Proverbs 15:1 (NKJB) *“A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”*



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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Wayne Bivens (recovering from double by-pass) Ricky Doles, Jamie Jones, And Mackenzie Hughes.

Danny Cottrell has an upcoming surgery in March.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Russell Briggs
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"How Do You Handle Anger?"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
Workbook:	Philippians
Author:	Paul R. Blake
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #60, Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading:	<i>Revelation 19:7-9</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper:	Paul Busby
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Jewish Wedding"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 1st:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Johnson
Workbook:	The Miracles Of Jesus
Author:	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #73, Question #4</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

“How Do You Handle Anger?”

Lesson Text: **James 1:19-20.**

I. Where Does Anger Come From?

- **Definition of Anger:** noun: **anger**; plural noun: **angers**
a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility.
- Synonyms: Wrath, Fury, Rage, Outrage, & Displeasure...
- Anger Can Come From Jealousy, Insults, Injustices, Offenses, Pride and Sin.
- **Genesis 4:3-8.**
- God Gave Us Our Emotions, But We Cannot Blame Him For Sin.
- Just Like Hatred, Fear, Jealousy, and Bitterness— Must Be Controlled (**vs. 7**).
- Anger can Lead Us To Other Sins.... Violence, Threats, Vulgar Talk, And Murder.
- **Matthew 5:21-22.**

Notes: _____

III. What Destructive Anger Can Do:

- It Can Alienate Us From Loved Ones- **Proverbs 21:19; 29:22.**
- It Upsets The Unity In The Home- **Genesis 30:1-2.**
- It Destroys Friendships- **Proverbs 22:24.**
- It Shows Us Our Pride- **1 Samuel 18:8.**
- It Shows Us Our Prejudice- **Jonah 3:10—4:4.**
- It Causes Us To “Speak Rashly” **Psalms 106:32-33; (Numbers 20:10).**
- It Causes Us To Disobey God **2 Kings 5:10-11.**
- It Only Hurts Us To Be Angry When We’re Wrong- **2 Chronicles 26:16-19.**

Notes: _____

IV. How Do We Handle Destructive Anger?

- Not As Cain, But Do As **James 1:19** Recommends.
- Determine Beforehand To Not Let Words Or Deeds Anger You- **Proverbs 4:26.**
- Speak Softly In Tone And Demeanor- **Proverbs 15:1.**
- Don’t Rehearse Angry Words To Unleash Upon Someone. **Ecclesiastes 7:9.**
- Learn To Handle Disappointments With Dignity, Poise, And Grace. **Phil. 4:5.**
- Let Insults Miss Their Intended Purpose! **Proverbs 19:11.**
- Remember, We Can Be Angry— But Don’t Sin- **Ephesians 4:26; 4:30-31.**

Notes: _____

“The Jewish Wedding”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 25:1-13.**

I. The Selection Of The Bride.

- The Father Would Select A Bride For His Son- **Genesis 24:1-4.**
- We are Chosen by God As Jesus’s Bride- **Ephesians 1:3-4; Revelation 17:14.**

II. The Bride’s Consent.

- Rebekah Consented To Marriage To Isaac- **Genesis 24:57-59.**
- We Consent To Be The “Bride” By Willingly Obeying The Gospel.

III. The Price Of The Bride.

- The Dowry Is Called The “*mohar*” In Hebrew.
- God Gave His Son To Secure Us- **John 3:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20.**

IV. The Gifts For The Bride.

- **Genesis 24:51-53.**
- God Gave Gifts For The Church- **Ephesians 4:7-8; Greatest Gift- Romans 6:23.**

V. The “Mikvah” Or Washing.

- The Bride And Groom Are Immersed In Water To Symbolize Purity & New Life.
- We Are Immersed By Water To Start A New Life Of Purity- **Romans 6:3-4.**

VI. The Betrothal Or “Erusin.”

- The Betrothal—Engagement of Today, But With Much Greater Commitment.
- The Couple Would Make A Covenant “Ketubah” (Vows And Promises) At This Time.
- **Matthew 1:18-19; We Are Betrothed By The New Covenant— 2 Corinthians 11:2.**

VII. The Cup Of The Covenant.

- The Betrothal Promises Are Sealed With Both Drinking From The Cup.
- **Matthew 26:27-29.**

VIII. The Departure Of The Bridegroom.

- The Bridegroom Leaves To Go Prepare A Place For His Bride (1-3 years).
- **John 14:2-3.**

IX. The Consecrated Bride.

- While Her Betrothed Is Gone, She Awaits Her Husband’s Return (**Matthew 25:1-5**).
- She Is To Be Consecrated To Him, Prepare For Wedding, Keep Lamps Burning.

X. The Return Of The Bridegroom.

- **Matthew 25:6-7.** The Bridegroom Returns For His Bride.
- We Must Always Be Ready To Meet The Bridegroom— Jesus. **Matthew 25:13.**

XI. The Homecoming And Wedding Feast.

- The Marriage Is Finally Complete When The Bridegroom Comes Back (**John 14:3**).
- **Revelation 19:7-9.**