



The Maturing Of Mary

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- **John 16:13-14 NIV**, 13 When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all (*full and complete*) the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.
 - The Holy Spirit draws us to the Lord Jesus Christ with ever increasing depth
 - **John 6:44 ESV**, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
 - **John 16:8 ESV**, And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

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- The Holy Spirit seals us unto the day of salvation
- He empowers and equips believers to accomplish the work God has graced us with
- But His most important work in the life of a believe is He guides us into a fuller, more complete understanding of Jesus Christ and who we are in Christ Jesus
 - In other words, He leads us on the path of Spiritual Maturity by allowing us to perceive and understand the glorify Jesus Christ
 - We are not saved to simply soak and take up a pew place and wait for the second coming

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- We are saved to walk the same spiritual maturing path that all the people we admire in Scripture had to learn to walk
 - Abraham, Moses, David, The Disciples, Apostle Paul
- We will see an example of this path through the life of Mary the sister of Lazarus this morning

We all begin our spiritual path at the same location, at the feet of Jesus

- **Luke 10:38-41 NIV**, 38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 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!"

We all begin our spiritual path at the same location, at the feet of Jesus

- **Luke 10:38-41 NIV**, 41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”
- Absolute truth is found in only one person – Jesus Christ
 - And the easiest way to learn of and absorb His truth is listening intently at His feet, as Mary

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- **Luke 10:38-41 NIV**, 41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”
- At His feet
 - A place of submission
 - A place of closeness
 - A place of honor

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- Mary doesn't have all the facts about Jesus, but she knows if there is any hope in her life it is Jesus and learning all she can from Him
- **Luke 23:42-43 NIV**, 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

We all begin our spiritual path at the same location, at the feet of Jesus

- Martha like many today was distracted by all the preparations
 - Was she listening to Jesus?
 - Was she in a place of submission?
 - Did she care what Jesus was speaking about?
 - Was she in a good mindset?

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- Was she in a good mindset?
 - **Vs. 40**, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”
 - **Vs. 41**, “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things
 - **Vs. 42**, “Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her”

We all begin our spiritual path at the same location, at the feet of Jesus

- **Vs. 42**, “Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her”
 - Nancy Wolgemuth paraphrases this, “Your company means more to me than your cooking. You’re more important to me than anything you can do for me.”

We all begin our spiritual path at the same location, at the feet of Jesus

- How do we sit at the feet of Jesus today?
 - **2nd Timothy 2:15 TLB**, 15 Work hard so God can say to you, “Well done.” Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means.
 - The Apostle Paul tell us many get stuck at the feet of Jesus
 - They never start making spiritual decisions using the truth shown to us while sitting at the feet of Jesus
 - We cease to grow up on our spiritual path of righteousness

Maturing spiritual faith must be tested to be shown true

- **Matthew 4:1 NIV**, 1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (*tested and shown as true*) by the devil.
 - Jesus needs to be shown, demonstrated as authentic
 - **James 1:22-4 NIV**, 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance (*steadfastness*). 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- Lazarus, Mary's brother was sick unto death Jesus said

Maturing spiritual faith must be tested to be shown true

- **John 11:3 NIV**, 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”
 - **John 11:6 NIV**, 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days
 - **John 11:17 NIV**, 17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.
 - **John 11:32 NIV**, 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Maturing spiritual faith must be tested to be shown true

- Hear Jesus say, “Do you trust me in my delay?”
 - Do you still trust my love for you, Martha, and Lazarus?
 - Do you trust Me?
 - Martha, **Vs. 27**, “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”
 - Others, **Vs. 37**, But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Maturing spiritual faith must be tested to be shown true

- Hear Jesus say, “Do you trust me in my delay?”
 - **Vs. 33 AMP**, When Jesus saw her sobbing, and the Jews who had come with her also sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit [to the point of anger at the sorrow caused by death] and was troubled,

Maturing spiritual faith must be tested to be shown true

- **Vs. 43-44**, 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”
- Even if Jesus had left Lazarus in the grave, the faith of Marth and Mary would have remained strong
 - **James 1:22-4 NIV**, 3 the testing of your faith produces perseverance (*steadfastness*). 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Lord Jesus Christ

- Passion - A strong and barely controllable emotion, an intense desire or enthusiasm for something
 - King David's passion for God, defining him as a "man after God's own heart," was marked by a relentless pursuit of God's presence, heartfelt worship, and deep repentance
 - David's ultimate goal was to dwell in the house of the Lord and seek Him daily, viewing God's presence as better than life itself
(Psalm 27:4, 63:1-3)

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Jesus Christ

- **John 12:1-3 NIV**, 1 Six days before the Passover (*5 days before crucifixion*), Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Jesus Christ

- Some things about pure nard
 - Worth about ½ a year's earnings
 - More costly than gold
 - Mostly used to cover the smell of death
 - Was used by royalty to announce the coming of a new king into his throne room
 - It was a very strong smell that was an oily substance that could last over a week

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Jesus Christ

- We are not specifically told why Mary did this, but we can see her heart and what Jesus said about it
 - She did not do this because Jesus raised her brother, she knew he would die again
 - Mary was overcome with passion and desired to show Jesus what He meant to her

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Jesus Christ

- We are not specifically told why Mary did this, but we can see her heart and what Jesus said about it
 - **Vs. 7** may give us a clue - 7 Jesus replied, “Let her alone. She did it in preparation for my burial. 8 You can always help the poor, but I won’t be with you very long.”
 - Mary may have been one of the few who actually listened to the words Jesus spoke about His death and resurrection
 - Everywhere Jesus went the next few days that pure nard would remind Him of Mary’s devotion and His purpose of coming

The road of spiritual maturity leads to passion for the person of Jesus Christ

- **John 12:27-28 NIV**, 27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

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- Mary didn't care what the world thought of her "*wasting*" her pure nard
 - **John 12:4-6 NIV**, 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it

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- Mary didn't care what the world thought of her "*wasting*" her pure nard
- So often we are more concerned about what others will think or say then what is important to Jesus
 - Nancy Wolgemuth paraphrase, "Your company means more to me than your cooking. You're more important to me than anything you can do for me."
 - Spend time with Jesus these next weeks as we are coming up to Resurrection Day



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