

MISUNDERSTANDING MARTHA

MAY 22-26 | DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG



We all have times in life that could be called “defining moments.” These are the moments by which people come to know us, and perhaps we even define ourselves. But is that fair? Should people be defined by one moment of their lives?

For years, Bible students have often misrepresented Martha, the sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany, because of her misplaced priorities of Luke 10—completely forgetting her great statement of faith in Jesus found in John 11. Let’s give her a chance at redefinition.



THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt misunderstood? As a result of that misunderstanding, were you misrepresented by someone to others? How did that feel? How does that still feel today?
- Read Luke 10:38–42. Why do you think the preparation of the meal was so important to Martha? Why might it have been so relatively unimportant to Mary?
- Read John 11:5. Does the order of the names surprise you? Why do you think Martha is listed ahead of her brother and her seemingly more spiritual sister?
- Read John 11:17–27. Do you see how Jesus is pulling Martha forward in her confidence in Him? Why might this be important?



CHALLENGE

Compare Luke 10:38–42 with John 12:1–3. What about Mary is similar in both of these texts? What difference might we see in Martha’s portrait? What can we learn from this about the importance of our attitudes in our service for Christ?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.”
(John 11:25-26 (NASB).



PRAYER

Loving Lord, thank You for Your patience with me as I try to grow in my relationship with You. Thanks for giving me the privilege of serving and for empowering that service. Most of all, thank You for Your patience as I sometimes stumble in my efforts to serve You. Amen