



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 6 - 5

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Women In Ministry Training

This message is actually for men as well as women, but since it is focused on the most underrated and misunderstood woman in the Bible, I chose this title. Many people are underrated and overlooked when it comes to ministry, yet it is the task of leadership to equip God's people for ministry. If you are not partnering with God in the purposes of the Gospel, then you are missing a main reason for your existence and you will not be fulfilled. It is not that everyone has to be speaking from the church pulpit or sitting with church government; most ministry should happen outside of church walls. That's the example that Christ gave us and He trained a remarkable woman to follow in His steps. Surprisingly enough, her name is Martha. Get ready, we are about to discover her.

Church history depicts Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus, in a poor light. She is seen as one consumed with worry, who looked to natural, rather than spiritual things. Today, many saints are overlooked, especially women. Martha would not be held back, and she became a powerful woman. I encourage you to read the scripture references about her. The underlined words in this teaching show us aspects of her ministry training. The story begins in Luke's Gospel.

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him." Lk. 10:38

Three single, adult siblings are living together in Bethany. The Bible says it is Martha's home, not Lazarus or Mary's home. That means that their parents are dead and Martha is much older than her siblings; otherwise it would have been the home of Lazarus. I assume that Martha could have been about 25, Mary 14 and Lazarus 10, when Mom and Dad passed away. Perhaps 15 years had gone by before Jesus came to town. If all of that is true, Martha would be 40, Mary 29 and Lazarus about 25 years of

age when Jesus came. Martha had raised her younger siblings. She was **responsible** and that is why she asks the Lord to speak to Mary about helping with the food preparations.

"Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better." Lk. 10:40-42

Martha was a responsible, **stop-gap parent**. Over the years, Mary had been corrected by her many times, and it was natural that Martha should ask Jesus for help. Jesus, however, rebuked Martha, not because He wanted her to stop the food preparations, but because he was taking her into the realm of **ministry training**, and that means lots of corrections. Martha is like a female version of Peter. Jesus was often in Peter's face to correct him, and because of it, Peter, like Martha, has been misunderstood. Both were in **ministry training** and Peter became the greatest apostle, next to Jesus and Paul. Notice some other qualities about Martha that have been overlooked.

She is an **initiator** and an **instigator**. It was Martha, not Lazarus, who broke through the crowd to invite Jesus to stay in her home. She was **hospitable** and she was a **giver**, for she spent finances to lodge Jesus and his disciples. This became Christ's home every time He went to Jerusalem. Still, another aspect of Martha is visible. She not only gave up her home and spent finances, **she served** as well. She **did the work** personally, she got her hands dirty.

The next mention of Martha is in John 11:1-44 when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. I suggest you read these verses. Jesus waited until Lazarus has been dead for 4 days before he arrived in Bethany. It is Martha, not Mary who went out to meet Him. Then Jesus, personally, gave Martha His deepest teachings on the resurrection. She is in ministry training and she has **remarkable faith**, for she says,

"If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jn. 11:22

Jesus corrects Martha again, but she responds with the **deepest revelations**.

Only Peter has said what she said:

"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" Jn. 11:27.

Then, when Jesus told them to take away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, **Martha questioned Him**, like Peter did. She argued, saying that his body will stink. Jesus corrected her again. **Martha was directly involved in a miracle**; Lazarus, her brother is raised back to life and she is changed forever.

Bethany was just 2 miles from Jerusalem and many Jews came to mourn Lazarus' death. They saw the resurrection, and because of that, Jesus became famous throughout Jerusalem.

The last mention of Martha in the Bible comes during passion week, just before Jesus was crucified. Read Mark 14:1-3, John 12:1-11 and Matthew 21:1-17.

It starts in Bethany. A special dinner was prepared in the home of Simon the Leper, in honor of Jesus. The village celebrated; after all, Jesus healed the rich leper and raised Lazarus to life.

John 12:2 says, *"Martha served."*

Bethany chose the largest home and the best caterer for the event. Martha was serving in someone else's home. In other words, she was a **business woman**; she was a caterer. I am sure she did not charge for this party. Then, Mary poured a year's worth of perfume

over Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. They **loved Jesus**.

Mt. 21 and Mk. 11 tell us about this week. Jesus took His triumphal ride into Jerusalem as crowds cheered. He cleansed the temple and healed the sick; He hosted the last supper and was afterwards, arrested, crucified and raised from the dead. Except for the Last Supper, **Martha was present at every event**.

Following the resurrection, **Martha was there as Jesus taught** His disciples for 40 days. She was definitely among the crowd of 500 who saw the Lord ascend to heaven from the Mt. of Olives. After all, the site was visible from her home. Then, 120 waited for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. Martha was among those who were praying on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell. She, along with the others, went out to the streets to **preach** the Gospel. Three thousand were saved and the saints began meeting in their homes to **pray, break bread and to study the Apostle's doctrine**. No doubt, there was a **meeting in her home**. Martha became a powerful minister of the Gospel.

Look at the underlined words; see if you are a minister in training. Like Martha, you have a call of God on your life. Do not be denied. AΩ



Christians for Messiah Ministries

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