

Purpose

- To learn about Mary, Martha her sister, and Lazarus, their brother

Materials

- Bibles

Background Information

This lesson describes a relationship Jesus had with a two women and their brother. In John it is evident that these were people that Jesus knew very well. Martha sent for Jesus when a crisis threatened the family. Lazarus was described to Jesus as "he whom you love". I think they show and talk a bout this to show that Jesus was human. He taught, healed and had friendships with people. Remember women were not important in those days, but two of this group were women.

It also show how human he was with the reaction Jesus showed when he saw the sorrow of others when Lazarus experienced death. Mary was weeping as were the others. This caused Jesus to also weep.

Jesus loved the two sisters deeply, but they were very different. When Jesus came to their home when they were expecting a lot of company. Martha was busy doing all the preparations necessary for guests. Mary simply sat at Jesus' feet and listened to his teachings. It is understandable that Mary got upset with Martha and felt comfortable enough to ask Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help her with the work. Jesus was aware of all that needed to be done to prepare for the guests. Cooking, cleaning, beds to make, etc. But Jesus also knew what was important. Jesus told Martha that only one thing is really needed, and Mary knew that. Let's hope Martha decided to join Mary at Jesus'[feet.

The other visit of Jesus at the home of the trio, was made under a very severe situation. Their brother, Lazarus , had died. The sisters had sent a message to Jesus, but he had not come. Martha was so upset that she told Jesus that if he had come, Lazarus would not have died. He even delayed his visit by stopping to comfort a man who was losing his daughter. Jesus healed the daughter and then returned.

When Jesus decided to go to Bethany, he told those who were traveling with him that Lazarus was dead, but said that he glad for their sakes because they would be helped to believe. When Martha expressed her belief that Lazarus would rise in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus replied "I am the resurrection and the life." She also remarked about the stench that they would find when they rolled the stone away. Jesus said to her "Did I not tell

you that if you believe, you would see the Glory of God." He then told Lazarus to rise and walk, And he did. This rising of Lazarus is the last of the greatest of the signs Jesus did.

This event that set into full motion the opposition that brought Jesus to the cross.

Procedure

- Read and keep in your folder.