

Mary of Bethany

5

Faith in Action (Luke 10:38-42)

1. Think back on this past week. Share an example where you had conflicting priorities. What did you choose and why?

2. Do you think it was societal norms or religious beliefs that promoted Martha to ask Jesus to change Mary's priorities?

3. Now let's use our imagination. Suppose Jesus had told Mary to help Martha. What would the church have taught about the role of women if that were the case?

4. How do you spend time learning from Jesus?

5. Read John 11:1-7, 11-20. Describe Mary's reaction to Jesus coming to Bethany. Was Mary upset because Lazarus had died or because Jesus did not come when they asked?

6. Was Mary's reaction justified? Have you ever been upset or angry because your prayers haven't been answered?

7. Read John 11:21-27. What did Martha know and believe? How did she learn this?

8. Read John 11:38-44. Does learning always happen by listening? Describe a time when you learned by watching, or by doing?

9. What do you think the reactions of Mary and the others was to this event? Was Mary still upset and angry with Jesus? Describe the scene as you imagine it.

10. Read John 12:1-11. How did the family of Lazarus honour Jesus?

11. How do we as a church and as individuals honour Jesus?

12. Reflect on the growth of Mary's relationship and understanding of who Jesus is. What were important steps for her?

13. Over the next week, reflect on how your understanding and relationship with Jesus has grown over the years.

14. Pray for each other.