

"First Things First"

Luke 10:38-42

Mary of Bethany

March 15, 2009

Mary was the sister who sat at Jesus' feet and listened. Jesus says: "Martha, you are worried and troubled over so many things, but Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."

John 11:1-44

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from death

John 12:1-8

Mary wipes Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume

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What was the "right thing" Mary had chosen? Was it to ignore the courtesies, and the work that needed to be done? What it to leave all of that to Martha and get a fight started? Hey, how about getting her priorities in order? Learning of her faith and getting her life squared around. Would that not in the end make her a better hostess? Would that not make her a better sister? Would that not make her a more courteous person?

Jesus pointed out to Judas and some of the people gathered around something important one later day. Mary got out some expensive oil and put on Jesus' feet. Judas threw a fit because that oil, or perfume in his opinion could have been sold to support the cause. Well, he said they could use it to help the poor. Jesus pointed out that there would always be poor people. But to pause and worship him would be limited, because he would not be here for long. This was said, not to ignore the poor, but to get things in order.

We would be smart to reflect on that. We get so easily wrapped up in all kinds of "good" things - and find our priorities lost in the shuffle. God ends up being way down the line in order of things to get done today.