

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 13

**Narrator:** Martha, the crippled woman, and a gardener

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 10:38-41, 13

**Story Summary:** Healings and teachings of Jesus

**Location:** Galilee and Judea

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 10:40, 13:34-35

It would be easy to read the Gospels and conclude that Jesus spent all of his time with his apostles, infrequently mingling with other people while he taught or healed them. These stories are meant to convey a different picture.

Somehow, Jesus met the family of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha and spent enough time with them to become close friends. It is likely that Jesus stayed in many homes as he traveled, so it seems likely that he made other close friends too.

At another point in time, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. From the stories about this family, it appears they were well off financially. In this episode about Martha, it is likely she could have afforded servants to serve everyone instead of doing it herself. That fact that she didn't may say more about her personality than about her financial status.

In this video episode of Martha, the part of the story up to when Jesus chastises Martha is in the Bible. After that, the story represents one possible reaction that Martha might have had. The Bible does not say what Martha's reaction actually was.

In the modern world, celebrities surround themselves with armed bodyguards to keep away the crowds. There is some evidence to conclude that Jesus' followers did try to keep the crowds away from Jesus on occasion, but other stories lead to the conclusion that Jesus came to be in contact with many other people outside of his group.

The crippled woman fought through the crowds just to get near Jesus. It was obvious she had faith, and she was healed. It was good news that God cared about her. However, the chapter starts out with the story of Pilate killing Galileans. God cared about them, too, but did not choose to save them. The apostles must have struggled with those types of incongruities.

In the Parable of the Narrow Door, Jesus makes it clear that many Jews who think they are righteous will not be saved, while many non-Jews will be saved. This must have come as quite a shock to Jews who thought they had exclusive favor of God.

There is a subtle message in Jesus' reply to the Pharisees in Luke 13:32-33. Herod Antipas is probably in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee, and is threatening Jesus once again. Jesus knows the time for his death is near, so he no longer has to avoid Herod and his threats since he is leaving Galilee for the last time. He is going to Jerusalem.

### Discussion Questions:

1. In the time of Jesus, women in most societies had few rights. If their husbands or sons did not take care of them, they had few options to survive economically. Name some women that might have influenced Jesus' thoughts on widows and divorce.
  2. Why might the common people have been more able to hear the Good News than the religious leaders?
  3. Luke 8:2-3 says Mary Magdalene had seven demons cast out of her. What story of Jesus may have been referencing that event?
  4. Luke 8:2-3 says Mary Magdalene was one of the women who traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry out of their resources. What might that indicate about Mary Magdalene?
- 
1. His mother, Mary; his ancestor, Ruth; his ancestor, Rahab. 2. Not so influenced by man-made rules, not distracted by wanting to be popular, not as distracted by wanting to be rich, were more humble. 3. Luke 11:24-26 When an impure spirit found the empty place and brought back seven other demons, so that the person is worse off than when they started. 4. Mary Magdalene may have been wealthy.

### Application Questions:

1. Are you like Martha, who valued hard work and serving other people? Or, are you more like Mary, who wanted to listen to Jesus and get closer to him? What do you think has caused you to be the way you are? Are you capable of valuing people who are as different from you as Martha was to Mary?
2. Do you think it pleases God more for you to read and study the Bible, or to pray and meditate? Why?
3. Do you feel like God loves you mostly for your hard work on his behalf?
4. Are there people in your life that you have spent a lot of time trying to convert to Christianity, but are starting to wonder if you are wasting your time? How much more time and effort should you spend on them?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. Is it easier for you to spend time with Jesus in prayer or to do things to help people on his behalf?
2. Can you get to heaven by working harder? What Scriptures lead you to your answer?
3. What is the difference between working your way to heaven and doing things in order to be a loving, obedient child of God?
4. Jesus developed life-giving relationships both before and during his ministry. What kinds of relationships are you developing? How can you bring life into others' worlds?