

## Jesus Is the One In Charge of the People I Love

Luke 10:38-42

Bethany was a little town on the east side of the Mount of Olives, about *two miles east of Jerusalem*. Today, it is called El-'Azariyeh, perhaps because it was there where Lazarus lived, died, and was raised from the grave by the Word of the Lord Jesus. When the Lord Jesus and his disciples came to Bethany, Martha, and Mary, and Lazarus, being disciples themselves, opened their home to Him (Heb. 13:1-2).

Some practical wisdom from this text:

1. Christian families have troubles just like other families.
2. Believers are different from each other; never the same in temperament, personality, and gifts.
3. The problem we have as Christians is the expectation that others be like me.

### **I. Faith in Christ is never a "bridge over troubled waters."**

Here are three siblings living under one roof. And all three of them worshipped God. All of them had seen the power of God. Yet, this household at Bethany was not exempt from problems. Grace is no exemption from trouble. Faith doesn't exempt you from heartache, and salvation from adversity.

**A.** They had trouble because sin is in *the process* of being destroyed. Martha lost her temper!

She said things she wished she had not said and did things she wished she had not done.

**B.** They had trouble because they lived in a sin-cursed world.

We sometimes ask, "Why me? Why mine?" We might better ask, "Why not me? Why not mine?"

**C.** They had trouble because they were devoted to Christ.

Mary was persecuted by Judas (John 12:3-5). Lazarus was persecuted by the Pharisees (John 12:10).

Don't let the presence of problems lead you to believe you're less loved by God than other people.

### **II. We Christians are different from one another, as well we should be.**

How very different these two women were! Both were faithful disciples of Christ. Both were believers. Both were born of God, converted by grace, and justified. Both honored Christ when few gave Him honor. Both loved the Savior. And both were loved by the Savior. Yet, they were different.

**Martha** was an active, impulsive, strong-willed, hard-working woman. She felt things strongly and spoke her mind openly. A woman truly devoted to Christ. She needed to serve, and serve she did.

**Mary** was a quiet, contemplative woman, more easy-going than Martha, but not less firm in her convictions. She felt things deeply, but said far less than she felt. She was truly devoted to Christ.

### **III. The problem we have as Christians is the expectation that others be like me.**

There are many who believe Martha "shouldn't" have been in the kitchen preparing and serving.

That's not the point. Martha said, "*Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me all alone...*"

**A.** I must learn to leave God's servants and God's people to God's care.

"Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own Master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (Romans 14:4).

**B.** Jesus is uninterested in my complaining about what someone else is doing.

Every time anyone came to our Lord and complained to him about what someone else was doing, was not doing, what someone else might do, or might not do, He rebuked them sharply.

• The Disciples complained about those who were not with them, but doing good (Luke 9:49-50)

• Peter asked Jesus about John: "But what about this man?" (John 21:21). Jesus responds: "What *is that* to you? Follow me (and leave other people to Me)?" Martha was a believer (John 11:27).

**C.** Serve Christ as He has gifted you (that's the "*one thing needful*") and live, love and laugh.