

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

26 November 2022

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

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"Embrace what makes you unique, even if it makes others uncomfortable. I didn't have to become perfect because I've learned throughout my journey that perfection is the enemy of greatness."

Janelle Monae, Singer,



Rapper, and Actress

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**All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer –
Martha: The Woman Who Was More Practical than Spiritual
Pages 86-92**

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AWARENESS

But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask. John 11:22 (NIV)

Name Meaning and Family Connection

- Martha is the feminine of *moro* or more, meaning “lord,” “master”.
- She may or may not have been related – daughter, wife, widow of Simon the Leper.
- She is from Bethany and is the sister, oldest of Lazarus and Mary.
- After Jesus left His natural home at thirty to begin His public ministry, it never states that He ever returned there but found Martha's warm home hospitable where He retired, for He love the three.
- Martha and Mary seemed to belong together in God's portrait gallery just as Can and Abel, Jacob and Esau do.
- Contrasting, Martha was busy with household chores while Mary was receiving spiritual instruction. Martha seemed active and impulsive with Mary being meditative and reticent (inclined to be quiet). Martha was busy with hospitality and Mary somewhat indifferent. These two sisters in that Bethany family had their respective, appropriate talents, and each of them served the Master accordingly.
- Martha's home in Bethany was one of the few of social standing and substance with whom Jesus was on friendly terms.
- When Bethany is referred to as “the village of Mary and her sister, Martha” the implication is that they were important figures in the community and that their home was the chief one in the village.

She Was Most Hospitable

- Martha “received Jesus into her house”, suggesting she was the owner.
- When she heard that Jesus was coming, she met Him (John 11:20; 30) and the provision of the house meant much to Jesus.

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- He went to Bethany, had supper prepared by Martha and His lonely heart found in that loving, hospitable home a woman waiting to minister to His weariness and exhaustion.

She Was Meditative

- We must not conclude that Mary thought serving was beneath her or that Martha was above the idea of sitting. Both sisters studied in the College of Feet.
- Martha felt that feeding Jesus was just as necessary as waiting upon His word. She had practical service.

She Was Guilty of Complaint

- Martha found herself drawn by conflicting (or should it be competing) care.
- She loved Jesus and wanted all in her household to do their best for Him. It irritated Martha to see Mary, cool and idle, while she was getting dinner ready for the visitors and most likely also accommodations for the night.
- What was she really guilty of? Selfishness?
- Ever felt you've done more than a sibling or someone else?

She Was Rebuked By Jesus

- Rebuked, verb, meaning “express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions.”
- In the Lord's answer to Martha's complaint there was no condemnation of her activity. He knew she was trying to entertain Him at her best and lovingly warned her of the danger of forgetting amid her many cares the one thing needful.
- In the repetition of her name, “Martha! Martha!” there is an affectionate reproof. Following His repetition that was a gracious blending of kindness, sadness and surprise Jesus went on to remind Martha that she was careful and troubled about many things but that one thing was needful – the good part Mary had chosen and which He would not take away from her.
- Martha was anxious, worrying, troubled, had a “divided mind” (see Matthew 6:22-31; 1 Corinthians 7:32).
- Jesus reminded Martha that while He recognized she was working for Him, she was permitting her outward activities to hinder her spiritually.

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She Was Loved Of The Lord

- The “apostle of love” (John) tells us that “Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus”. Even with their different personalities and temperaments He loved them equally.
- Knowing all about Martha, Jesus loved her and she in turn loved Him and shared His confidence.

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She Was A Woman Of Deep Sorrow

- Lazarus fell sick and his sister sent word to Jesus saying, “Behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.”
- By the time Jesus reached Bethany, Lazarus had been in His grave for four days.
- Jesus did not hurry so they could learn His delays are not denials, that He knows the exact moment to display His power. He knew that this death would result in Him being glorified as the Son of Man (John 11:4).
- While comforting Martha and Mary, all waited on the divine Comforter Himself.
- As soon as Martha saw Jesus, she uttered a rebuke (“express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions.”) saying “if You had been here” followed by the most profound words she could say, “But I know that even now with my dear brother in the grave, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it to Thee.”
- What faith, confidence, and a remarkable conversation on resurrection with Jesus she had! Jesus healed her broken heart assuring her that Lazarus would rise again.
- The Prince of Life sought to lead Martha's thoughts away from Lazarus to Himself. Martha's reply provided the Master with one of the most outstanding statement in the Bible as to His deity, power and authority – “I am the resurrection and the life.” (see John 11:25-26). She replied (11:27), “I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.”
- In this chapter we have the shortest verse in the Bible (11:35) where Jesus is noted by some writers as “The God of Tears” as evidence of His humanity.

She Was A Joyful Woman

- Can you imagine with Martha and Mary must have felt upon embracing their one dead brother who is now miraculously alive? The physical miracle resulted in spiritual miracles, and many believed in Jesus.

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- Mary anointed Jesus' feet with costly spikenard (symbolic oil mentioned in Song of Solomon 1:12; 4:13–14 and in Mark 14:3 and John 12:3) without objection from her sister whose heart and spirit were blessedly changed. What is the song we sing about this event?

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BLESSINGS OVERFLOW!!!

No Session In December – Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa

January 21, 2023 – Sapphira; Pages 152-155; Acts 5:1-11

February 25, 2023 – Woman Taken In Adultery; Pages 239-242; John 8:1-11; Deuteronomy 17:5-6

SKILL

Step Twenty-Two: Interdependence

Martha represents those religious women who allow themselves to be distracted overmuch with their home care (even church care?) and obligations. Remember the church requires both Martha's and Mary's and we must always be "balancing service with worship, trusting the Lord even when all seems lost, and using our material resources for the glory of God." It is not "I", "my" or "me" but "we", "our", "us". A few lessons we can learn from Martha include but not limited to:

- Seek God first going boldly and confidently into His presence. Manage your time to spend quality time sitting at the feet of the Lord to feel His presence, His peace, His instructions.
- Seek a heart, spirit of hospitality even amid chaos or when feeling unimportant, unnoticed and/or isolated.
- Seek opportunities to engage intentionally in "active listening". It is preparing to listen, observing what verbal and non-verbal messages are being sent, and then providing appropriate (non-judgmental) feedback for the sake of showing attentiveness to the message/messenger. As they say on Jeopardy, you are "all in".

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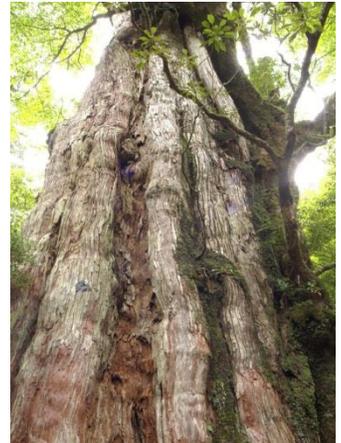
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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how faith in God allows Him to use me in the company of others who are not like me (skills, character, priorities) as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as He continues to move me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

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