

# LIFE WITH THE MASTER

## “At the Master’s Feet”

*of Jesus and Mary*

### Introduction

- Private and public ministry-  
*The earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ encompassed all dimensions. He taught both privately and publicly.*

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV<sup>1</sup>

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

*These great spiritual truths were shared by Jesus in one-on-one situations. But He was no stranger to crowds either.*

Matthew 15:30-31

30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

- Likewise, Our relationship with the Lord has both private and public dimensions. Though we interact with Him primarily in the privacy of our own hearts, the public dimension of our relationship is profound.

Matthew 10:32-33

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

*Mary of Bethany was one who enjoyed a close and private relationship with the Lord Jesus. But she wasn't afraid to publicly display her love and honor of Him.*

### I. Mary and Martha

#### 1. Invited by Martha

Luke 10:38

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*Note that it is Martha who invites Jesus into the home. This was the start of a very heartfelt relationship.*

John 11:5 “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.”

## 2. Sitting and Serving

Luke 10:39-40

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

*While Martha took on the responsibility of hostess, Mary paid attention to Jesus. Sitting at His feet is placing one's self in a place of instruction.*

Acts 22:3

I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught** according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

## 3. One Thing Is Needful

Luke 10:41-42

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

*All of our service is for naught if we forget to fellowship at the feet of Jesus!*

Revelation 2:2-4

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

## II. Mary's Worship of the Lord

### 1. The Death of Lazarus

#### A. She sends for Him.

John 11:1-3

1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

*John lets us know here what he will later describe in more detail. The sisters make an appeal to the Lord based on His relationship to Lazarus. "He whom thou lovest is sick."*

B. She goes to Him.

John 11:28-35

28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

*When Jesus calls for her, she goes to Him "outside the camp."*

Hebrews 13:13

Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

*The contrast between the sisters shown by John is no less than that shown by Luke.*

C. Another contrast with Martha.

- Martha goes to Jesus, Mary stays.

John 11:20

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

- Martha makes a statement of faith, Mary simply makes a statement.

John 11:21-22

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

John 11:32

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

- He spoke to strengthen Martha's faith, not so Mary.

John 11:23-27

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

- Martha objects to the rolling away of the stone, not so Mary.

John 11:39-40

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

*I don't think Mary's silence can be attributed to just a demure spirit. All her other actions (remaining at Jesus' feet to be instructed, falling down at His feet, and anointing Him in public) are not those of a "shy" girl. Could it be that she understood at a deeper and more intuitive level what the Lord was going to do?*

## 2. She Anoints His Head

Mark 14:3

And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

*This is the same scene as John 12, which we will examine below. For now, though, let us look at the history of His head.*

### A. His head in submission.

- Crown of thorns.

Matthew 27:29-30

29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

- Accusation over His head.

Matthew 27:37

And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- Bowed His head in death.

John 19:30

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

#### B. His head lifted up.

- The head of the corner.

1 Peter 2:7-8

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

- The Head of the Church.

Ephesians 1:22

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

- The Head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2:10

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Ephesians 1:17-21

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

C. His head in glory.

- Full of wisdom

Revelation 1:14

His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Colossians 2:2-3

2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- Crowned in Gold

Revelation 14:14

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Revelation 19:12

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

- Crowned a covenant keeper and possessor of all the earth.

Revelation 10:1-7

1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

3. She Anoints His Feet

A. A costly sacrifice.

John 12:1-6

- 1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.
- 2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.
- 3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.
- 4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,
- 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?
- 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

B. Against the day of His death.

Matthew 26:7-13

- 7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.
- 8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?
- 9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.
- 10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.
- 11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.
- 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.
- 13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Mark 14:8-9

- 8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.
- 9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

*The commentators I checked claim that the Lord gave her action a deeper significance than she had intended. In other words, she had poured the nard on Him simply to show love and honor and He, knowing that He was going to the cross, declared she had done it for His death. But what if she did it **precisely** because she believed what none of His twelve had yet understood?*

*We will read of another anointing in Luke 7 by another woman. Why no lasting memorial of her (aside from Luke)? It is possible that like at Lazarus's grave, she understood where Jesus was going and why.*

C. Her glory at His feet.

John 12:3

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

*For a woman to loose her hair in public was unseemly enough, let alone to wipe someone's feet with it. But this is exactly what she does. A woman's hair is representative of her glory.*

1 Corinthians 11:15

But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

*Our glory belongs at His feet.*

Revelation 4:10-11

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

### III. The Master's Feet

1. A Place of Subjugation

A. The Protogospel

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

*His feet were destined to defeat the enemy.*

B. His enemies His footstool

Psalms 110:1

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

1 Cor 15:25 "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

C. We are executors of His power.

Romans 16:20

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

*The word translated "bruise" means to crush completely!*



Joshua 1:3

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

*The Lord promised to Joshua all the territory his foot should tread upon. Surely His promises to us are no less powerful.*

Malachi 4:2-3

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And **ye shall tread down the wicked**; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Ephesians 6:11, 15

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

## 2. A Place of Supplication

### A. Jairus

Mark 5:22-23

22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, **he fell at his feet**,

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

### B. The Syrophenician woman

Mark 7:25-30

25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came **and fell at his feet**:

26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

C. Mary

John 11:32

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

*To which the Lord could have easily said, "I am here, he shall live."*

3. A Place of Salvation

A. Healing

Matthew 15:29-31

29 And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

B. Deliverance

Luke 8:35

Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

C. Forgiveness

Luke 7:37-39, 44-50

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

### **Conclusion**

*Let us be as Mary who sat at His feet to learn, fell at His feet to plead, and lavished on His feet in worship. Let us leave our dignity and glory at His feet and submit ourselves to the Bishop of our Souls and live.*