

Ages 6-11

Friendship With Jesus Brings Blessings

Speaker: Sister Marion Long

BIBLE POINT

Jesus is My Friend

SCRIPTURE

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants;
for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things
that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*
(John 15:13-15)



KEY WORD

Friendship

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary, Martha

BIBLE BACKGROUND

When Jesus went to Bethany, Luke says a woman invited Him into her house. It is thought that perhaps Martha was a widow, and either owned her house, or was merely the housekeeper of it. She lived with her sister and brother and, obviously, all were unmarried. Jesus loved her family (see John 11:5) and considered them among his closest friends. The Gospels tell of three different times when he visited their home.

Martha's hospitality should not be taken lightly or unjustly criticized. She was making a home for the Master for however long He might stay. It was important to her that He felt welcomed, loved, and provided for. Her frustration with her sister was understandable. Both were grown women who lived in a world ruled by men, yet Mary was the only one who dared to forsake the traditional role of homemaker to sit at Jesus' feet alongside the men. Perhaps Martha wanted to be there as well but did not feel she could do such a thing.

When Lazarus died, the sisters' world came crashing down. Women without men to care for them was not well received in Bible days. But their concern was for their brother – not themselves – and their view of Jesus' love for Lazarus was somewhat marred by His absence. They knew his powers; they knew He would heal Lazarus. Yet when Jesus failed to show, the sisters could feel only intense pain at such unconcern. Imagine their mixed emotions when He

did indeed use His powers and restored Lazarus to them – joy at seeing their brother alive, embarrassment at their frustration toward the Master, hope of the promise of a resurrection to come. Jesus was without doubt their friend.

QUESTION & ANSWER

- Name the friends of Jesus who lived in Bethany.
- Why did Martha become frustrated with her sister, Mary?
- Was Martha or Mary in the wrong?
- Why didn't Jesus heal Lazarus when he was sick?
- What caused Jesus to cry at Lazarus' tomb?
- How long did Jesus show His great love for His friends?