

“The Comprehensiveness of Divine Love”

John 11: 1 – 15

John 11: 5 tells us, “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus”. Jesus loved these three people of different temperaments. To love all three is to love human natures which greatly contrast. This is characteristic of true love; it is comprehensive, full and all inclusive. There is a kind of love which makes a choice of its objects. It picks out a few of like nature and temperament and confines its association to these, but here, the love of the Master lavishes itself upon three very different souls and in each finding joy and satisfaction. Jesus has no desire for all his loved ones to be out of the same mold, for he doesn't seek uniformity. He loves us for our individuality and he won't remove our individuality, but he will seek to glorify it. “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus”.

1. “Jesus Loved Martha”. Martha is a biblical example of a practical woman as we see in (Luke 10:40). Martha served and in this we see her character. She was ever eager for practical deeds and her interpretation of “practical” was ministering to the needs of the flesh; so if a person was hungry Martha was willing to feed them. She may not have been an expert in abstract discussions, but she was great when someone was sick or in need of immediate help. As we find in Luke 10 and John 11, Martha was a hospitable person, full of energy and anxious care having a spiritual knowledge and a faith that believed in Jesus. As we understand a bit about Martha it is good to know that she stands enrolled among the loved ones, a chosen companion of the Lord: “Jesus loved Martha”.
2. “And Her Sister”. Mary, contemplative, possessor of a roomy mind full of visions and a heart equally large, full of feeling. Mary was usually quiet, reserved, unobtrusive and full of thought. (Luke 10:40) tells us that Mary sat at Jesus' feet and a practical person such as Martha is apt to be impatient with folks like Mary and in (Luke 10:40) we find Martha telling Jesus to tell Mary to help her sister with the preparation of the meal. However, Jesus tries to correct Martha's thinking telling her that Mary has chosen a better thing. The impatience that Martha exhibited arises from a narrow and impoverished concept of service for indeed, there are all kinds of service for the Lord. Land that is used as a garden or where green grass grows or where flowers bloom is never a waste. As this world needs the Martha's it also needs the Mary's, those deeply contemplative souls whose spirit sheds a fragrant restfulness over the hard and busy chores of the day. We need souls who sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his word and then interpret the sweet gospel to a weary world. Scriptures in Luke 10; John 11 and John 12 show us something of Mary. She was spiritually receptive, she had spiritual insight, there was a quiet resignation about her and three times she sat at Jesus' feet for instruction, comfort and service. Upon folks like Mary the Lord has also set his seal of approval and has claimed them as his companions. “Jesus loved Martha and her sister”.
3. “And Lazarus”. What do we know about Lazarus? Nothing! He appears to have been undistinguished and commonplace, yet Jesus loved him. Crowds of people just like Lazarus are spoken of by the Apostle Paul in (Philippians 4:3), people

whose names are recorded in the Book of life. Thank God for the commonplace people of this world! They turn houses into homes and they make life sweet and restful. Yes Jesus loves the commonplace. We need not be great to be loved. Here is a great comforting truth. We are all loved, the brilliant and the commonplace, the dreamy and the practical. "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus".

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