



**Nazareth** – a village that rejects God, overfamiliar, offended, drives him out  
vs.

**Bethany** – a village that wants God, one scholar said it was “Jesus’ favorite place on earth”

➤ **Prioritizes being with Jesus**

*Luke 10:41-42*

41 “*Martha, Martha,*” the Lord answered, “*you are worried and upset about many things, 42... Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*”

“Our souls were not created for the kind of speed which we have grown accustomed. Thus, we are people who are out of rhythm, a people with too much to do and not enough time to do it...Our lives can easily take us to the brink of burnout. The pace we live at is often destructive. The lack of margin is debilitating. We are worn out. In all of this, the problem before us is not just the frenetic pace we live at but what gets pushed out from our lives as a result; that is, life with God.” – Rich Villodas

Our life *in* Jesus sustains our work *for* Jesus.

What occupies the discretionary time you do have?

-- a Bethany heart gives time & attention to God

➤ **Believes that Jesus has the power & resources to help**

Jesus performs his most well-known miracle, the raising of Lazarus, at Bethany.

*John 11:32-33*

32 *When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.*

Falling at Jesus’ feet, weeping, crying out for help—this is the vocabulary of Bethany

No matter how big the battle, overwhelming the circumstances...it’s not bigger than Jesus.

-- Raising Lazarus from the dead = Is anything too hard for the Lord?

➤ **Breaks the bottle in complete devotion**

*John 12:1-3*

1 *Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

pure nard (spikenard) = expensive perfume, fragrance could last 10 days

Bethany is the place where our most precious commodity is poured out at Jesus’ feet in wholehearted worship.



“Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain.” – A.W. Tozer

I want you in my heart. I want you in my family.  
I want you in our church. I want you in our city.

I want the Presence of Jesus to be the defining reality of my life.  
I want the Presence of Jesus to be the defining reality of my family.  
I want the Presence of Jesus to be the defining reality of my work.  
I want the Presence of Jesus to be the defining reality of our church.

Here's how you know you've "broken the bottle" and poured it out at His feet...

When people around you are telling you to "calm down".  
When people around you think your faith is too extreme and intense.  
When people around you are confused by your sacrifice and surrender.



Evan Roberts (1878-1951)  
*God, I want you in Wales.*



William Seymour (1870-1922)  
*God, I want you in LA.*



Jeremiah Lanphier (1809-1898)  
*God, I want you in Manhattan.*

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