

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Ten

IN THE GOSPELS: Mary (Martha's Sister)

Burden to Impart:

Those who respond to God's call to receive the Lord Jesus and His salvation, should out of love and gratitude pour out everything they have and are upon Him.

Memory Verse: "...Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Matthew 26:13).

Facts to Teach:

1. When the Lord Jesus came down to Jerusalem He would not stay in Jerusalem over night, He stayed at Bethany (Matt. 21:17). Although Jerusalem used to be called the "city of God," they had no room in their hearts for Jesus, for they rejected Him from being their Lord. But in a poor village nearby, Bethany, Jesus had some dear disciples who not only received Him, they loved Him very much.
2. It was in Bethany that the Lord Jesus performed the greatest miracle of His ministry. He had raised Martha and Mary's brother, Lazarus, from the dead. Lazarus had not been dead for only an hour or two. He had been dead for four days and had begun to rot and stink. This, however, was no problem to the Lord Jesus. He resurrected him. (This will be looked at in detail next year, in the next series.)
3. With Lazarus we see the greatness of the Lord Jesus' power. With Martha we learn how the Lord's disciples should serve Him. And with Mary we see how the Lord's disciples should love and treasure him above everything else.
4. Before the Lord went to the cross He told His disciples at least three times that He would be killed in Jerusalem. For some reason none of the disciples comprehended what He was telling them, except Mary. It seems that only Mary, the disciple who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His word, understood the Lord's heart. She somehow realized that she would see her Lord no more, that He was going to die in Jerusalem that week. So she grasped the only opportunity she would ever have to honor the Lord before His death: she poured out her life-time treasure, a flask of exceedingly expensive and precious ointment, upon the Lord Jesus. Though others criticized her for being foolish and "wasteful," the Lord approved Her (Luke 14:3-10).
5. So precious was her offering to the Lord that He said that wherever men spoke of His great sacrifice for them, they would also speak of Mary's love and sacrifice to Him (Matt. 26:13; Mark 14:9). The Lord was telling us that all who believe in Him and receive His salvation should respond like Mary, and pour out their all to Him.