

TALK IT OVER

The Mary You Don't Know

BOTTOM LINE

The blessings of God bring temporary relief, but surrendering to God brings permanent security.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share about a person whose biography/life story has inspired or helped you.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Mary of Bethany](#) (58 sec.)

VERSES AND QUOTES

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 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. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

John 12:1-8 NIV

"God sometimes uses other's stories to meet us in the midst of our own. Martha was doing what had always been expected of her. Mary walked into the freedom to which Jesus invited her." – Sarah Alderfer

"When Mary surrendered to God, she was making a declaration that He was Lord over everything." – Sarah Alderfer

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The deepest lesson taught from Luke 10 is not about avoiding distractions, but that Mary took a risk to live free from bondage. Where has Jesus provided freedom for you? Where do you need to step into it? What intimidated Mary? What intimidates you? In John 11 Mary pleads for Jesus to come. Her brother is near death and only Jesus has the power to change it. When Jesus delays, she feels like He doesn't care. When have you been there? When Jesus is not keeping time with your clock, what do you tell yourself about Him? When have you experienced Jesus using a situation He didn't fix in the time or way you wanted Him to? Mary's surrender in John 12 was the culminating bigger and best interaction with Jesus. She understood that complete surrender brought a permanent and better security than even freedom from bondage or relief from grief could bring. Our greatest security also lies in unquestioned complete surrender to Jesus. How are you experiencing that?

ACTION STEP

This week I will examine my life with Jesus to make a full surrender of everything to Him. _____