

Sisters Martha and Mary were most likely unmarried, which explains why Lazarus lived with them. In those days, a woman needed a male relative for protection, reputation, and income. A brother living in the home would be a good solution.

Martha showed great faith in Jesus and understanding who He really was. When Lazarus died, she told Him she believed He was the Messiah, the Son of God, who was promised to come.

MARTHA

Homemaker, sister to Mary and Lazarus

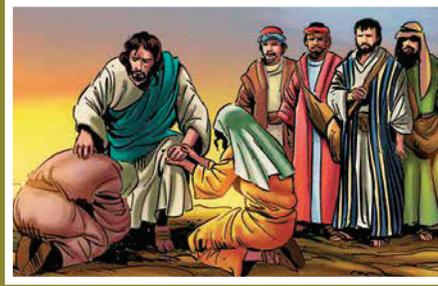
Her name means "bitter."

Martha's family may have been wealthy. First, they owned a home big enough to host Jesus and His disciples. Second, Mary could afford to buy a jar of expensive perfume to offer Jesus. And third, their family tomb was cut in the rock and had a big stone to roll across the opening.

She was probably the oldest of the three siblings, as she was the one who welcomed Jesus into her home. It was an honor to host a meal for a famous teacher like Jesus, and Martha wanted everything to be just right.



CLAIM TO FAME



A close friend of Jesus, Martha wasn't afraid to speak her mind to Him. She asked Him to tell her sister, Mary, to help prepare a meal. And when her brother, Lazarus, died, Martha believed Jesus could bring him back to life.

HOMETOWN

Bethany, Judea, Israel

WHERE IS IT NOW?

Bethany, West Bank, Israel

BACKGROUND

She was a Jewish woman who lived with her sister and brother. Martha appeared to be the oldest of the three and the head of the household.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 11; Luke 10



SISTER OF LAZARUS

When Jesus and His disciples visited the family's home for dinner, Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him teach. This left Martha to do all the cooking and hosting duties. She complained to Jesus and asked Him whether or not He cared that she had been left with all the work. Jesus gently reminded Martha that Mary had chosen to do the better thing, which was to take time to learn from Him.

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

She interrupted Jesus' teaching in frustration. She felt that Jesus wasn't treating her fairly and that He was letting Mary get away with laziness while leaving all the chores to her. Jesus had a talk with her about priorities.

One time, Lazarus came down with a serious illness, and his sisters sent a message to Jesus. But He chose to arrive after Lazarus died and was buried. Jesus told Martha that He Himself was the resurrection and that anyone who believed in Him would live, even after they died. Then Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

