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Martha

I was working as fast as I could, trying to get everything ready for dinner. The goats had to be milked. Bread had to be baked. The lamb had to be roasted. Fruit had to be gathered. The humble home I share with my sister, Mary, and brother, Lazarus, still needed tidying.

My hands were moving as fast as my racing mind. But then I stopped and took a deep breath. I remembered what Jesus told me the last time He and His friends visited us. Jesus reminded me that the things I was so worried about were small things, not big ones. The big thing, the most important thing, is growing closer to God. As usual, He's so wise!

Glancing out the window, I see Jesus and His twelve friends just down the road—and it looks like a skinny little dog has decided to join them! I place the dried figs I bought at the market into a bowl. I'd planned to chop some almonds and then walk down to the vineyard and gather some grapes as well. But figs will do for now. Our guests will be here any minute! I pick up the bowl of fruit and a pitcher of fresh water. Then I grab a lamb bone for the dog. I might as well make everyone feel welcome!

Truthfully, Jesus and His followers feel more like family than guests. They're always welcome here. They see so many things in their travels; they meet so many people. I love listening to Jesus tell His stories. He always gives me something to think about. He has such a way of making me feel like I'm a member of God's family: wanted, loved, and understood. After spending time with Him, I want to share God's love with others so they feel that way too.

Tomorrow, meals will need to be prepared and my home will need cleaning all over again. But who knows when Jesus will return for a visit? At this moment—this very special moment—Jesus is almost within arm's reach. I can't imagine anything I'd rather do or any place I'd rather be than sitting at His feet and listening to Him speak once more.



What is your favorite food?

What can you do to make a guest feel at home?

What is one way you can grow closer to God?

