

Mary of Bethany

(Lk 10:38-42; Jn 11:1-45; 12:1-8)

- I. **MARY'S CHOICE** (Lk 10:38-42)—**non-traditional role of disciple**
 - A. **Different Personalities** —*There is not one, single Christian personality.*
 - B. **Different Ministries** (Rom 12:3-6; 1 Cor 12:4-6)
 1. God created **individuals**.
 2. God has **designed** each person for her particular **calling**.

- II. **MARY'S TEARS** (John 11:28-37)
 - A. **Jesus is not afraid of (a woman's) emotions.** He understands and empathizes.
 - B. **Jesus responds to (a woman's) tears.** (Ps 107:6, 13, 19, 28)
 1. Jesus **understands** tears. (Rom 8:26; Psalm 56:8)
 2. Jesus **empathizes** with tears. (Ex 2:23-25; Isa 63:9)
 3. Jesus **weeps** with those who weep. (Jn 11:35; Rom 12:15)

- III. **MARY'S GIFT** (Jn 12:1-8)—**different from Martha's**
 - A. **Costly**—worth a year's wages, the best thing she had
 - B. **Public** (Mat 10:32)—honored and adored Him before others

C. Personal—her unique gift to Jesus

1. What She Had

- a. **Anointed His feet with Perfume**—humility
- b. **Wiped His feet with her Hair**—intimate, romantic, scandalous

2. What She Understood of Jesus (Jn 12:7)

- a. **Insightful**
- b. **Supportive**
- c. **Prophetic**

D. Praiseworthy (Jn 12:7-8)—Jesus defends and praises Mary's gift

- 1. **Jesus understands, accepts, and fulfills the romance in a woman's heart.**
- 2. **Jesus is worthy of the greatest love, the highest honor, and the utmost devotion of which a woman is capable.**
- 3. **Jesus desires and welcomes our love poured out to Him in worship.**