

## Martha / Mary Syndrome

Discussion around these two sisters highlights the difference in acting out our faith.

Martha was concerned with getting everything just right, busy with the details of activities. Jesus says to Martha, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." - referring to trust in God.

Mary was concerned with learning, seeking out the word of Jesus and trying to understand his teaching. Jesus defended Mary's actions, once when she anointed him with expensive oil, "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." and again when Martha criticized Mary for not helping in preparing a meal but rather sitting at Jesus feet to listen to his teaching, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

It is important to note that Jesus encouraged the idea of service among his followers, so he did not say that Martha's role of service was unimportant. This would have gone against his teachings. What he did say was that being a disciple, and learning about the ideas he was explaining, was even more important.

List your activities at the church that fall into either Martha or Mary activities.

Martha Activities at Church	Mary Activities as Church

Readings:

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-44

John 12:1-8