

ARM Prison Outreach International

"Ministers' Minute" Volume VI Number 9

Mary the Meditative

Luke 10:38-42

Editor's Note: This "MM" is an email lesson, the 9th of 2007 and 69th overall in a series. ARM is sending these monthly -- as an encouragement to preachers, chaplains, and Christians around the world. This message is a lesson I developed recently using the story of the incident in John 12:1-11. It is my prayer that this message will encourage you and honor Christ. Use it as a devotional, edit it, share it, use it or components of it!

-- Rod Farthing, ARM Prison Outreach Development Director rodfar@arm.org

ARM FAST FACT

ARM's Branch Ministry in Thailand

A brief report from ARM's Minister in Thailand, Boonlerd Chompukeeree

Daughters of Ruth Home: We now have **26** girls living at the house but can accommodate only **22** girls so some girls have to sleep in the same bed. Let us pray for our new house. One of our girls goes for training in a sewing factory from Monday to Friday and she goes to school on Saturday. In this month, one woman who was of the ex-prisoners comes to live with us for 4 weeks as she was looking for a job. Now she is working in a factory. There is also a prisoner's wife with a three-year old daughter who came to stay with us for four weeks. We helped her find a job in a department store. Now she can earn her living normally. We went to visit one woman ex-prisoner who is a foreigner. She is going to be expelled out of the country. Her husband is a European, so she cried and was very upset that she was going to leave her husband. We pray for her and ask God to protect her wherever she leaves and that she is safe.

Our main problem now is that we used to have the service to worship God every night but we sang the songs loudly and this disturbed our neighbors so much that they came to ask us to please sing the songs more softly. Now we have the service to worship God only on Friday and Saturday night only and we have to keep our voice low. For other nights, we pray quietly. (This is the reason why we would like to have our own house in which to worship God).

For more info go to www.daughtersofruth.org

Mary the Meditative...Choose the "Good"

... Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do

You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

42 but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (NAS)

- **She sat at Jesus' feet 10:39**
- **She sat attentively at Jesus' feet 10:39**
- **She "chose the needful, good part" 10:42**
- **She chose the "better part" -- NIV 10:42 -- Shouldn't we make Jesus our top priority?**

"Some years ago I had to go out to Los Angeles on a plane from New York. The hostess seated a girl twenty or twenty-one years of age beside me. Obviously the girl had never flown before. "Over the loudspeaker the hostess said, 'Fasten your seatbelts': The girl did not know what a seatbelt was. I helped her and asked, 'You've never flown before?' And she said, 'No, this is my first time.'

"As I spoke to her, she opened her pocketbook, and there was a picture of a G.I.--a fine, rock-ribbed New England face. I said, 'You're going to see him?' 'Yes,' she said, 'he's coming home. I'm going to see him.'

"I talked to her. They had gotten married a year and a half before, had a honeymoon of just a few days, then he had gone to the coast and left for Korea. Now he was coming back home; she was going to see him; and that meant more to her than anything else. *Nothing else counted for her;* her whole soul was in her eyes.

"As I told her how to fix the seatbelt, I said, 'Now don't be worried; the engines are going to whirl and you'll think something is going to happen, but it isn't. They're just testing the engines and when they quiet down, there will then be the moment of pull and you'll feel the takeoff.'

"She was interested in everything she was doing, but most of all in the young man in the cellophane bordered picture in her pocketbook. He was her bridegroom; she was his bride; she was going to see him.

"Some may wonder sometimes why Christians live as they do and make the spiritual choices they make. *They are on their way to see their bridegroom, and they are going to see Him.*

This is the blessed hope. We are going to see Him." --- Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse

Mary the Meditative... John 11:1-5

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 The sisters therefore sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

4 But when Jesus heard it, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. (NAS)

Mary the Meditative... John 11:28-35

28 And when she had said this, she went away, and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here, and is calling for you."

29 And when she heard it, she arose quickly, and was coming to Him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.

31 The Jews then who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her, also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled,

34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

Mary the Meditative... ...John 11

- **She is honored with the "ointment" reference 11:2**
- **She arose quickly to come to Jesus 11:20, 31**
- **She fell at Jesus' feet -- Martha didn't(?) 11:32**
- **She wept there, touching the Lord's heart 11:33-35**

It's famous for being the "shortest verse." But John 11:35 is more than a short verse. It is a beautiful picture of how Jesus "weeps with those who weep" to show his love for us and a genuine concern for our sorrows.

A little girl dressed in dungarees walked into a pet shop and asked whether they had a puppy with a lame leg. She had a dollar with which she wanted to buy it. The salesperson of the pet shop was surprised that the little girl wanted to buy a lame puppy. She asked, "Why, don't you want to buy a puppy that can run around and play?" "No, I want a lame one." Finally, she pulled up one leg of her dungarees and showed her brace, saying, "I don't walk so good either." The little girl with a lame leg identified herself with a lame puppy.

The Lord Jesus became a man, taking upon Himself a human body with its frailties in order to identify Himself with us in our bodily weaknesses (Heb. 4:15).

Mary the Meditative... John 12:1-8

1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.

3 Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?"

6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

8 "For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me."

Mary the Meditative... John 12:1-8 & Matthew 26:13

- **She uses expensive perfume -- "pure nard" 12:3**
- **She is commended by the Lord for her sacrifice and her love expressed in preparing Him for burial 12:7**
- **Jesus predicts her story will be told as a memorial to her everywhere the Gospel goes -- Matthew 26:13 and Mark 14:9**

Mary was not only willing to fall at Jesus feet, she was willing to be totally humble as she gave her all -- in the form of expensive perfume-- in His presence. Humility is the stepping stone to Christ-like service -- and that to being exalted by God:

Phil 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (KJV)

A little Western college needed money. The buildings were shabby, the salaries underpaid. A stranger appeared on the campus and asked a man in overalls engaged in whitewashing a wall where he could find the president. "I think you can see him at his house at twelve," was the reply. The visitor went as directed, and met the president, whom he recognized, in different dress, as *the very same man he had found whitewashing*. Next day came a letter with a gift of \$50,000. The Christ-like humility and service on the part of the president had appealed effectively to this man of business. (Dr. J. F. Cowan)

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Check out our web sites: www.arm.org www.abarc.org www.raphahouse.org www.daughtersofruth.org

In 2006, ARM donated over 5 MILLION DaySpring Greeting cards to prisons!