

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## MARY AT THE FEET OF JESUS

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As we read through the New Testament, we see people at the feet of Jesus. This humble posture reveals a heart of reverence for Jesus. In such reverence, people come to Jesus' feet as worshipers (Matthew 28:9, Rev. 1:17-18). Those suffering physical maladies come to Jesus for healing (Matthew 15:29-31). A bereaved father and sorrowful mother appear at Jesus' feet beseeching Jesus' healing help for their children (Mark 5:21-23; 7:24-26). A woman grateful for the forgiveness of sins wets Jesus' feet with her tears (Luke 7:37-38).

Three times we notice Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus at the feet of Jesus. They are on different occasions indicating different circumstances. Each is worthy of note.

We first find Mary at Jesus' feet as a "truth seeker" in Luke 10:38-42. She sat at Jesus' feet and "heard His word". While Martha was busy in the admirable endeavor of serving, the Lord points out to Martha that Mary had chosen the "good part, which shall not be taken away from her". This occasion at Jesus'

feet, reminds us that hearing Jesus' word should be our priority in life. Amidst anxious times, when we are being flustered by this demand on our life and that demand on our time, it is important to pause and let Jesus' word filter out life's distracting noise. It was "needful" for Martha, and was being implemented by Mary.

At the feet of Jesus we hear words of absolute truth (John 14:6, 17:17). And this truth will face us as God's standard for judging us in the last day (John 12:48). Look to Jesus for truth, soak it up with conviction, and you will have the good thing that no one can take away from you.

Next, we find Mary at the feet of Jesus as a bereaved sister in John 11:32. She recognized Jesus as one who could have prevented the death of her brother. She said, "Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Through her tears over her brother's death, she could not see that Jesus has power to restore life. At Jesus' feet we find comfort in ways we may not have expected. The Lord is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). In times

of deep sorrow may we see clearly enough to come to Jesus to receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need (Hebrews 4:15).

Let us remember that Jesus' power is not going to always prevent bad things happening to us, but He has power to restore our lives. For example, He can restore to us the "joy of thy salvation" when He has allowed sin to break us to pieces. "A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalms 51:12,17).

Finally, we find Mary at Jesus' feet as a "grateful friend" in John 12:3. After all, her brother Lazarus was able to sit at meat with her and Martha again. Jesus was the reason for Lazarus being alive again, and she was grateful. She was at the feet of Jesus anointing his feet with "very precious" or expensive ointment. There is nothing too valuable that is above being sacrificed to benefit Jesus. Thanksgiving for God's blessings helps us focus on this fact. Every time we notice Mary in Scripture, we find her at the feet of Jesus. May we follow the same humble path.