

THE TRUE LIBERATION OF MARTHA & MARY

(Week 2 God's Women of Grace Month)

Luke 10:38-42 **SLIDES X 3**

Now it happened as **they** (Jesus and the disciples) went that He **[and they]** entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha **welcomed Him into her house.** ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who **also** sat **[with them]** at Jesus' feet and **heard His word.**

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are **worried and troubled** about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

We have here in The Gospel of Luke another true story which once again reveals a lot of hidden truth.

We find Martha loved, honoured and believed in Jesus.

Later on, **at The Grave of Lazarus**, her brother, she states that she believed **Jesus was Messiah – The Chosen One** – The One sent from God to redeem Israel. (John 11:27)

SO HERE MARTHA WAS ACTUALLY SUPPORTING JESUS' MINISTRY and message ... and opened up her home for Him **and His disciples** to have a Bible study and lunch.

This was no small 'bite to eat' ... Mary was cooking for at least 12 people.

So with this fellowship-lunch ... you'd think that this would have been a happy occasion and the whole house would have been filled with His anointing ... that there would have been an overwhelming sense of peace and everyone would be smiling, loving and hugging one another.

However, we find, the opposite was true -

Here we see the ministry of Martha falling apart!

Just when she was trying to please Jesus she starts having a real 'Flesh-out' – a meltdown ...

- THIS WASN'T BECAUSE SHE WAS STRESSED & NEEDED HELP
- THIS ISN'T TELLING US MARTHA SHOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

THIS WAS ALL BECAUSE OF ONE THING WHICH HER SISTER DID & DIDN'T DO & THAT JESUS ACCEPTED.

NOW WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE THE REAL BIBLE STUDY IN 3D
SLOWLY YOU HEAR THE BASHING & CRASHING OF POTS & PANS FROM THE KITCHEN ... GETTING MORE & MORE PRONOUNCED FOLLOWED BY SIGHS & MUMBLING AS MARTHA STARTS IMPLODING ON THE INSIDE ...

SUDDENLY MARTHA MANIFESTS ... CONFRONTS JESUS ...
BLAMES MARY ... AND COMMANDS JESUS TO ACT ...
ALL IN ONE STATEMENT.

Luke 10:40 **SLIDE**

*But Martha was distracted with **much serving**, and **she approached Him** and said, "Lord, **do You not care** that **my sister has left me to serve alone?** Therefore tell her to help me."*

JESUS DESCRIBES MARTHA'S CONDITION

Luke 10:41 **SLIDE**

*... Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are **worried and troubled** about many things.*

'Worried' (merimnas) Over Anxious (What was she worried about?)

'Troubled' THORUBAZO ... From 'Thor' The god of thunder ... MARTHA THUNDERED - she was exploding inside UNTIL SHE EXPLODED OUTWARDLY!

BUT WHAT WAS MARTHA SO UPSET ABOUT?

Was it just because she was left to do all the work?

NO! THERE WAS SOMETHING FAR DEEPER GOING ON HERE.
THIS INCIDENT EXPOSED A CULTURAL DILEMMA OVER THE ROLES & RESTRICTIONS OF WOMEN - THAT JESUS WAS ABOUT TO BUST WIDE OPEN ...

MARTHA EXPLODED BECAUSE ACCORDING TO **RABINICAL LAW**

- AS A WOMAN, MARY **SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN** SITTING WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLES (MEN) AT THE FEET OF JESUS
- AS A WOMAN, MARY **SHOULD HAVE BEEN** SERVING IN THE KITCHEN
- JESUS BY CUSTOM **SHOULD NOT HAVE** INCLUDED MARY IN HIS TEACHING

So you see there was more to this than Martha needing help in the kitchen ...

MARTHA WAS OPERATING IN RABINICAL LAW ...

A lifestyle-Law that forbade women -

(1) to be taught scripture

(2) to sit with men and

(3) to NOT be in the kitchen preparing food for their male guests

**MARTHA THOUGHT MARY HAD LOST HER WAY
& THAT JESUS WOULD CONSENT WITH HER**

THE ORAL LAW (NOT THE MOSAIC LAW) SAID -

The role of women was to serve the family and support the education of the men.

The Oral Law is a [code of conduct](#) by which the rules of human behaviour is determined by [oral tradition](#).

Jewish law and tradition is thus not based on a literal reading of the Tanakh (Old Testament), but on the combined oral and written traditions.

THE RABBIS CREATED 613 COMMANDMENTS FROM THE TORAH.

For example:

“It is the way of a woman to stay at home and it is the way of a man to go out into the marketplace” (Bereshit Rabbah 18:1; cf. Taanit 23b).

Women were **prohibited from conversing with men** in public.

In the first century most women were very likely illiterate, since the rabbis did not consider it incumbent upon women to learn

to read in order to study the Scriptures. Based on the passage in Deuteronomy 4:9 “Teach them to your sons.”

The rabbis declared women to be exempt from the commandment to learn the Law of Moses.

Indeed, the Talmud (the books of customary law based upon rabbinical law) says, “It is foolishness to teach Torah to your daughter” (Sotah 20a).

There are similarities between the Hellenistic and Talmudic views of women.

YENTIL – BARBARA STREISAND SLIDE

This movie shows the situation in Jewish culture. It is the story of a Jewish girl in Poland who decides to dress and live like a boy SLIDE so that she can receive an education in Talmudic Law.

MARY NOW SITS AT THE FEET OF JESUS LIKE A DISCIPLE ... which was probably a huge social embarrassment to the family.

SLIDE JESUS NOW LIBERATES MARY IN ONE STATEMENT

HERE JESUS NOT ONLY ENDORSES MARY’S RIGHT TO BE HIS DISCIPLE, BUT DESCRIBES IT AS EXTREMELY NECESSARY and implicitly invites Martha to join her sister among the disciples.

Luke 10:42 SLIDE

One thing is needed and Mary has chosen that good part which will not be taken away from her.

WE ALSO SEE JESUS BREAK THIS RABINICAL & CULTURAL OPPRESSION WHEN TALKING TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

She says –

John 4:9 SLIDE

... How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? ...

- Jesus then reveals who He is to this lowly, rejected woman
- Jesus then reveals the greatest truth about True Worship to this lowly, rejected woman

JESUS LIBERATED HER ... TO THE STATUS OF DISCIPLE.

THE ERA OF THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN HAD BEGUN.
GONE ARE THE DAYS OF RABINICAL LAW BINDING WOMEN TO
THE HOUSE & TO SERVITUDE ...
GONE ARE THE DAYS THAT FOBADE WOMEN FROM BECOMING
DIRECT DISCIPLES OF THE LORD HIMSELF ...

**JESUS HAS BECOME THE END OF ALL LAW –
MOSAIC & RABINICAL**

Romans 10:4 Berean Study Bible
*For Christ is the **end of law**, to bring righteousness to everyone
who believes.*

Romans 6:14 NASB
... For you are not under the Law, but under grace.

JESUS DECLARES THE NEW STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE NEW
COVENANT - EQUAL WITH MEN IN LEARNING SCRIPTURE &
RECEIVING REVELATION ...

WOMEN WERE NOT TO BE SHUT AWAY IN THE HOME ANYMORE
BUT WERE FREE TO SEEK GOD IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ...
TO LEARN HIS GRACE & TRUTH ...

**THERE IS NO RACIAL PREJUDICE NOR GENDER BIAS IN
CHRIST**

Galatians 3:28 NIV **SLIDE**
*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there
male and female, for you are all one **in Christ Jesus**.*

Now in Christ, all believers have equal status regardless of social
standing, race or gender.

BUT YOU SAY, WHAT CAN A WOMAN DO NOW?
WHAT ROLE IS RIGHT FOR A WOMAN?

WE HAVE NOT SPOKEN OF ROLE ISSUES SUCH AS:

- **RELATIONSHIP & HEADSHIP (Marriage & Family)**
- **FELLOWSHIP (Church)**
- **LEADERSHIP**

NOW, IN NEW TESTAMENT GRACE, SHOULD WE LEGISLATE WHAT WOMEN SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DO?

NO! THE MOMENT WE START LEGISLATING & IMPOSING ROLES - We come back under law and lose our freedom.

God will lead us all in His Freedom ...

And if we are in true freedom, we will walk in the Spirit and the Spirit will guide us into our individual roles - what is right for us as a man or a woman and **as an individual.**

Galatians 5:1 English Std Version **SLIDE**

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

'For Freedom Christ has set us free ...'

Stand fast in that freedom (so that you may live free) and don't be entangled again with the yoke of slavery –

The Yoke of slavery is exactly what we are talking about today – Cultural Law.

Paul here is talking about the oral law of customs and ceremonies ... which I again reiterate affected women greatly.

JESUS SHOWS THE GOSPEL IS ALL ABOUT **FREEDOM IN THE SPIRIT**

- **FREEDOM FROM THE BONDAGE OF ALL LAW BOTH MOSAIC & RABINICAL ...**
- **FREEDOM TO LIVE & MINISTER IN THE SPIRIT ...**
- **FREEDOM TO BE WHO YOU ARE**

LADIES, YOU ARE NOW FREE TO BE A WOMAN ...

To live free as a woman ... not having to hide from men ... and neither having to become like a man to attain equal status.

In an attempt to become equal with men ... many women start to become like men and they lose who they are.

WOMEN ARE NOT MEN & MEN ARE NOT WOMEN

Genesis 5:2 NIV **SLIDE**

*[God] created them [The First People] **male and female** and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.*

NB: THERE ARE ONLY TWO GENDERS ... MALE & FEMALE

ONE GENDER IS NOT SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER

Some clever woman was confronted by a man who was determined to establish his dominant male superiority.

He said, ‘You know, God created Man first before women ...’

The woman answered, ‘Yes, but like any great craftsman ... they always make a rough copy before the real thing.’

JESUS ALONE CAN BRING TRUE FREEDOM TO WOMEN

JESUS LIBERATES WOMEN TO BE WOMEN – EQUAL WITH MEN.

TO FIND THEMSELVES ...

TO LIKE THEMSELVES ...

AND TO LIVE FREE AS THEMSELVES ...

GLORIOUS WOMEN OF GOD.

GOD’S WOMEN OF GRACE ARE NOT THREATENED BY MEN ...

God’s women are confident in who they are in Christ ...

They are not in competition with men ...

DOES GOD ENDORSE WOMEN PREACHERS?

- **The Woman at The Well** became the first Samaritan evangelist ... she went back and preached the coming of The Messiah to her whole village
- **THE WOMAN ANNA** – a prophetess **WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO PROCLAIM THE MESSIAH AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS** -

Luke 2:38 NIV

*Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and **spoke about the child to all** who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

- **THE FIRST PERSON TO SEE AND DECLARE THE RISEN CHRIST WAS A WOMAN ... *Mary Magdalene* -**

Mark 16:9-10 NIV **SLIDE**

*When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, **he appeared first to Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had driven seven demons.¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.*

Jesus didn't say, 'Mary ... you better not tell anyone least they think you're preaching'

GOD HAS GOT A SPECIAL HEART FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

THE APOSTLE PAUL ACKNOWLEDGES WOMEN AS HIS FELLOW (EQUAL) WORKERS

Romans 16:3 **SLIDE**

*Greet **Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers** in Christ Jesus.*

NOTICE WHO'S NAME COMES FIRST!

DOES GOD ENDORSE WOMEN PREACHERS? - ABSOLUTELY!

Judges 4:4 ASV

*... **Deborah, a prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, **she judged Israel at that time.***

To Be Continued ...