

I. Doctrinal Application of John 11

If you have your Bible, let's turn to John chapter 11, shall we? So far, we have developed this chapter as to its doctrinal application. You have heard me teach you this from day one, how the Bible will have different applications to it, basically three: the historical, the doctrinal (prophetic toward the Second Coming), and then, of course, the inspirational, which is for our everyday living.

I always usually do the doctrinal first because 1 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17 tells us that that is the first thing the Bible is profitable for, is for doctrine. So I try to stay with it as best I can. I gave you and defined for you what our cast of characters in this story really represent.

I told you that doctrinally, Lazarus will represent the nation of Israel. He dies, picturing Israel's spiritual condition; they are dead. Then Christ comes and resurrects him. We talked about Mary and Martha, how doctrinally they kind of represent the two types of Jews at the first coming of Christ. Mary follows the law, does what she is supposed to do, and Martha is kind of outside the law and does her own thing.

Then we have the Lord, and of course, in this particular story, He is coming to Lazarus, a picture of Christ coming to the nation of Israel to resurrect Israel. It is typified by Him dealing with Lazarus and then raising him up, which is a picture of Israel's resurrection. I gave you all the references on that.

I have told you this many, many times, that the theme of the Bible will be the Day of the Lord, the establishment of God's kingdom. The last couple of weeks, I showed you in this chapter on Israel's resurrection, typified by Lazarus, all four examples in the Bible that really point us toward the theme of the Bible, the Day of the Lord. This story will fit into the overall theme.

You remember I gave you and showed you that there is a third-day system out of John chapter 2. Then there is a 12-hour day. We looked at that third day the first time we were in it. Last week, the 12-hour day, there are two of those, two and three. One is based out of Mark 13, no watches. The other one is a 12-hour Matthew chapter 20. We got into those on Thursday night. The fourth one is a seven-day system. I laid this out last week, laid out in accordance with Genesis chapter 1 and 2, the six days of God creating and resting on the seventh. I gave you all the material and showed you how you match it up and how it really lays itself out.

In everything we looked at a couple of weeks ago, we went into Ezekiel chapter 34, and I walked you through up to chapter 39 and 40. Then last week, I showed you how Paul wanted us to understand God dealing with Israel much like we are reading here in John chapter 11. So we kind of went through Romans chapter 9, Romans chapter 10, and Romans chapter 11. Romans chapter 9 explains to us how the Jew got in the mess they got in, and then God leaves them temporarily, and then the Gospel goes to the Gentiles. That is chapter 10. But then He comes back and He

restores them in chapter 11. Everything in the Bible will point to that theme in the Bible, which will be the Day of the Lord or the Second Coming of Christ.

Hopefully, you are getting all this into your Bible. I will be glad to help you any way I can and show you the best way to do it and try to help you wherever I can. Thursday night, we will have any time you can ask me about it, and we will get all of those things going for you. But if you are ever going to get your Bible down and learn your Bible, these are the things in time you are going to have to get in.

II. Inspirational Application of the Characters

Today, we are going to look at the characters in our story, but for the next couple of weeks, we will look at them inspirationally. We already know historically that they are real figures. This is not a parable story. I laid out the doctrinal. Now I want to show you the inspirational side of these characters and how it relates to, again, to me and you and what we can learn from it: Mary and Martha and then, of course, Lazarus, inspirationally.

Now we are going to talk about Martha first. I need to clarify something here. We only have one lady in our church whose name is Martha. I told her before the message, "This ain't you, sweetheart. You are as good as gold." I do not want any inference that he is preaching about Martha back there. Martha, this is not you, sweetheart. We love you very much, and you are a vital part of our church, so do not you worry about it.

Let us read John 11, and we will pick it up in verse 17 to verse 28 today.

John 11:17-28

Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off.

And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

Father, we ask Your blessings upon today. We love You. We thank You for all that You do for us. Thank You for our church, for the good folks that are in it and here today. Thank You for those on YouTube out there that all around the country and literally around the world are listening today, that we might be a blessing to them. Many of them count this church as their own church because they cannot find one wherever they are at. We thank God for that and hope that we can always be there for them. But bless this time today. May we look at these things and apply them to our own lives and everything that we endeavor to do for You. We will be careful to give You all the honor and the glory and the praise in Jesus' name and sake we ask it. Amen.

Doctrinally, as I said, Mary and Martha will show us two types of Jews at the first coming of Christ. They seem to fit into that category. We talked about a while back in John chapter 2, the family of God, the seven members of that family of God and the household of God out of Ephesians 3 and Ephesians 2. They fit into that category of the two types of Jews that are there when Christ shows up and their perspective of the Lord Jesus. Martha will show us the Jew who believes in God but has left basically the Old Testament law. She is pretty much doing her own thing. Mary, on the other hand, will be a picture of the Jew who is following the law and looking for Christ in the proper place, in the proper time, the way that she should.

But today, I want to move into the inspirational for a moment. For the next couple of weeks, I want to look at Martha today, Mary next week, and then Lazarus the week after that. I want to see how these characters represent a picture of Christianity. Mary and Martha will represent for us the two types of Christians that you are going to find today in Christianity. Martha will be a picture of 98% of God's people today that you are going to find. What I want to do is develop over the next couple of weeks some really good principles from the people that we are going to look at, things that I think can really be a benefit to you and to me.

III. God's Will Versus God's Plan

Martha, there is no question about it, she represents a Christian. She would be saved. She believes in God. But when you look at her life and see how she deals with things, she completely misses everything that God is doing in her life and around her. She always wants to tell God, Christ, what He should have done, but can never see what He is really doing. In her life, as we come down through here, she has absolutely no insight. She does not seem to have any perception, and she certainly does not have any understanding.

She, like most of God's people today, has no understanding of the great doctrine in the Bible, which we talk about here and teach through our discipleship lessons, the great teaching on God's will versus God's plan for your life. She does not understand that. Yet most of God's people do not understand that. I hear young kids get up or people give a testimony, and many of them are

adults, and they are on a mission field or they are pastors, whatever. When I hear them say something like this, it is kind of an indicator of where they are at in the Word of God.

I heard a young guy get up one time that just graduated from mission school, and he was going to be a missionary someplace. He got up and he was giving his testimony in the church, and he began to talk about how it was so clear to him that God's will for him was to go to the mission field. Everybody in the church said, "Amen," and "Praise the Lord," and all of that. He went on and on and on. I thought to myself at that point in time, "This is the problem today." This is Martha's problem: God's will for your life versus God's plan for your life. We all think they are the same. We think that God's will is God's plan, and God's plan is God's will.

Let me just say this: God has a plan for every one of you. Every one of you, if you are saved, the Bible says that He "hath begun a good work in you and will perform another day of Jesus Christ." He has a plan for you. Part of you being in this church is my job and the leaders in this church is to help you grow that God, through the Word of God, can show you what He wants you to do, God's plan. This will be the purpose that we talked about a couple of weeks ago in Romans chapter 8, verse 28, where He says, "We are called according to his purpose." God has a purpose for your life.

We have a host of people here today, well over a hundred, and it is a thing where God's plan will be different for every one of you. God is not going to call you to do the same thing. If He did, I would still be back in Canton, Ohio. God has a plan for every one of you that when you got saved, you were called according to His purpose for your life, which is God's plan. That is just what He wants you to do. My job and the job of the leadership of this church is as we grow together, that we help each other, and I help you get to that point in your life where God's plan, what He wants to do with you, becomes clear to you. In time, you will be right where God wants you to be, doing exactly what God wants you to do.

I cannot speak for you. I have no doubt in my mind that I am exactly where God wants me to be, doing what He wants me to do. I found my purpose. I found God's plan for my life. But I am telling you right now, the day I gave my life to the Lord and got up and said, "Okay, I am going to start serving the Lord," I did not know what that was. I went through tough times just like everybody else did. I was not sure what God wanted me to do. I was a young guy. I was seeing all kinds of guys that were older than me doing all kinds of stuff. I wanted to do it all. But I realized that that was impossible.

I remember one time I thought God wanted me to do this, and I thought God wanted me to do this. Some preacher would come in town and preach in the church, and it would convict me about something, so I thought that is what God wanted me to do. Actually, none of those things is what God wanted me to do. But it comes to the point in my life where the great example is 1 Samuel chapter 3. We do not have to turn back there, but that is the great example and model for this. Young Samuel, he was probably one of the greatest prophets that Israel had, and God wanted to use him. God had a plan for him. But you will see in chapter 3, the Word of the Lord was not even revealed to him yet. When God tries to call him, to explain to him, he does not get it. If it was not for Eli, who had his own problems, but in this case, Eli was smart enough to

understand to give this kid good advice. In time, because Samuel got good advice, he became a great prophet for the Lord, for God in the Old Testament. It is a great thing, and it is a great example for you and for me: God calling Samuel to the work that God had for Samuel and how God is going to call you, how you are going to figure out God's plan for your life, but then fulfill God's plan for your life.

Now, that is God's plan. God's will will be something else. God's plan for everybody in here is different. He is not going to call the two people sitting together to do the same thing. But God's will will be the same for everybody sitting in this room if you are saved. This is totally lost today. As I said, I hear the guys get up and give a testimony, "Well, I think God's will for me was to do this or to do that or to be this or go to the mission field or be a pastor or build a church or be an evangelist." No, that may be God's plan for your life, but that is not God's will for your life. God's will for you and for me will be the same. Where God's plan will be different for everybody, God's will will be the same for all of us.

God's plan is whatever He wants you to do. God's will is for you and for me to be more like Jesus Christ every day of our lives. That is God's will. God wants you and me to grow into Him. The problem is, and this is where you get into the mess with it, God's will will never be anything you do for God. God's will will only be what you become for God: Christlike, getting God's mind, seeing everything in life from God's perspective, like we talk about all the time. Understanding that God has to change our viewpoint of the world before we can ever reach it. We cannot look at the world and go out and try to win it to Christ with the same thinking that we had before we got saved. Getting saved is not going to fix that just like that. There has to be a process.

God has something that He wants you to do. So many of God's people try to do something for God before they try to be something for God, and it is a disaster. This is why Christianity is in the mess that it is in today. This is why God's people have so many problems. They are saved, they are on their way to heaven, and they are the most miserable people on planet Earth. They have bad marriages, they have bad kids, they cannot get any victory in their life. They just go through life in a miserable state. We are supposed to be the light of the world. It is the world who is supposed to look at our lives and say, "I want that." God's people's lives today are not much different than the world's lives. They say one is going to heaven and one is going to hell, but at the end of the day, there is nothing changed. It is because of things just like this.

God's people go into churches where the pastor gets up there and does not delineate, and I do not know what delineate means, but I heard it on TV last night. He does not separate the two, does not explain the two, that you have an understanding that God does have something He wants you to do, but you will never really do it until you first be what God wants you to be, and that is more like the Lord Jesus Christ. This is lost today. You went to the average Baptist church in this town and asked the average Baptist preacher about this, he would not have a clue. Do not even waste going into the neo-evangelical crowd. They are too busy in their coffee shop. But I cannot really say that much anymore, can I? Because we have a coffee shop downstairs. Ours is better. I bless the water before we put it in down there. I am just telling them.

More like Jesus Christ today. When I was growing up and learning the Bible, every New Year's, Mel Sabaka, my father in the Lord, would preach a message. It would not be the same message, but he would say some of the same things. He would always ask this question: "What is different about you this New Year's than last New Year's? Do you know more about Him now than you did last year? Are you closer to Him? Do you understand the Bible more? What changed between last New Year's and this New Year's?" Of course, the answer to that with most of God's people is, "Not a thing." Well, that is not true. More problems. More issues.

But you see, your life and my life will forever fulfill what God wants us to do. It has to be fulfilled in the process of what God wants us to be. God has a plan for your life, again, something that He wants you to do, a work for the Father. We have seen it in the last couple of chapters. But the only way you can fulfill God's plan is to be first fulfilling God's will in your life. I am saying again, God's plan will be different for everybody in this room if you are saved, but God's will will be the same. You do something for Him only by being something for Him, allowing Him to change you, direct you. That is how you find out what God wants you to do. You do not just get to decide for yourself. You realize the decisions that we have all made in life or what we wanted to do usually did not work out very well. Yet we think that once we get saved, we can still decide what God wants us to do on our own. No, you cannot. He has to show you that.

I actually had a guy one time call me on the phone so excited that he found out that God gave him an answer. I said, "Well, I always like to understand that." He said he was driving down the road, and he saw it on a billboard. That is how he got his answer. I am going to tell you something: that is not how God will give you what He wants you to do. You have to get the same heart that God has. You have to get the same mind that God has. You have to get on the same page that He is on. Then through that, becoming what God wants you to be, God's will for your life, becoming more like Christ, He will reveal to you. I cannot tell you the day God told me, "This is what I want you to do, and this is where I want you to go." It does not work that way. It would be a lot easier to explain if it did. It is a process. It is something that God does not call you on the phone. Listen to me. It is something that you grow into. One day, you just know. All the pieces come together. I can stay up here for the next hour and tell you all those pieces, how they fit into my world that got me where I am at today. But that is what He does.

Martha is an incredible picture of a Christian trying to do something for God without ever being something for God. She tries to do God's plan, but she does not have any understanding of God's will.

IV. Martha's Defining Characteristics

Let us take a look at her through our trained eye. I watched a sci-fi movie this week. I like sci-fi movies, especially the old ones back in the 50s. Most people do not know why there is a theology behind the 1949-50 sci-fi movies. Most people do not know what the theology is behind it, but there certainly is. I do not have time to get into this morning. But the one I watched was this one. Oh, it was made in 1988. It was called, "They Live." How many have seen that movie? It is about you walk around town. You walk around the country. You walk around this, and

everybody looks normal. But what has happened is aliens have invaded, and they took on the forms of human beings. You cannot tell who is an alien and who is not. But they designed these special glasses. When you put them on, normal people and alien people. The aliens look horrible. The aliens know that. So it is a whole thing where they are trying to get all the glasses. I thought to myself, "Boy, wouldn't it be great if we could come up with some spiritual glasses that we could put on and just read the Bible and see what it is really doing?" That would be the most wonderful thing. I mean, I see that movie, and I think to myself, "There is probably more truth to that movie than we know, but we just do not have the glasses yet." But I thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be a great thing?" Because I talk about the trained eye and looking at the Bible. "Wouldn't it be great if we could just bypass all that, put on a pair of glasses and, 'Whoa, there it is!'" Well, it is not going to happen that way. So we all need to work to train our eyes and to see what is really there.

To start with, let us get a defining verse on both of these gals. That is what we want to start. That is how I do it when I do a character study. I will look for a defining verse on that person. We are going to talk about Mary and Martha, and they both have their defining verses, and fortunately, it is found in the same verse.

John 11:20

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

In our story, you know this by now, there is a tragedy that has happened. They have lost their brother Lazarus. He got sick, he died. He has been dead now, according to the narrative here, four days, and if you read a little farther, he is getting a little ripe. He stinketh. It does not look like much in this verse. It really does not. But verse 20 is what I call a telltale verse based on biblical principles of how we, when a tragedy befalls us, how we should respond to it or how we are going to react to it, to any tough situation or tragedy that is going to befall in life.

I am just going to tell you this: we are all going to go through tough times in some way or the other. Many of us already have. We are going to lose loved ones. Things are going to happen. Your day is not going to work out. You are going to have something that is going to befall you that is not pleasant, and we are going to have to deal with it, just like here. When I see this verse, the first thing I see about Martha here, and let me develop this, stay with me here, she has no patience to wait on God to get there. She hears He is coming, and she goes out to meet Him. Now that looks, without a trained eye, that looks like that might be a pretty good thing to do. But hey, stay with the Bible here for a minute.

First off, going to meet Jesus will not change anything. Lazarus is not going to finally pop out of the grave because she goes to see Jesus. So her running to see Jesus really is not going to fix anything about this problem. As we continue on and look at this thing and see her, we are going to see the kind of person Martha really is. She wants to be the one who is seen by everybody walking into town with Jesus. Martha has nothing spiritually going on on the inside. It is all about her on the outside. For her, once she hears He is coming, she runs to meet Him because she has that "look at me" attitude of "I am coming into town with the Lord." We already know that

many, many people are coming around and comforting them, so there is a crowd here. It is important for Martha to be seen with Jesus like she is something special. Martha is in this for the show of it all. She wants to be seen as spiritual, but she is not. She cannot, as we will see, understand what God is really doing. She cannot understand that this whole scenario has been set up by God for Him to get the honor and glory of it for the nation of Israel. It is all about her. She is always talking about what she is doing and then what everybody else is not doing. She is really big on doing, but she is really short on being.

V. The Principle of Standing Still

Mary, for a moment, and we will get into her next week. The Bible says in John 11:20, "but Mary sat still in the house." I do not know if your trained eye picked this up, but that word "still" is in italics. That means they put it in there to show you something. You have got to catch things like that. Honestly, this is a, and I am going to develop this for you, this is a really good biblical principle for us.

Let us go back to 1 Samuel chapter 9, verse 27, if we could. You want to turn back here, because I am going to develop this through a couple of places, and I want you to see this, why this is so important in a defining verse. In 1 Samuel chapter 9, the storyline to save us some time today is simply this: Saul has come to Samuel, and he has come to Samuel to be made king. Samuel knows that he is not the right one. He knows that. Samuel has been told in chapter 8 that the nation of Israel did not want the king that God wanted for them. They wanted to be like all the other nations. Samuel reminds them, "You are not to be like all the other nations." But they want Saul, and let us face it, Saul was from a political standpoint, he was a tall man, probably very good looking, and he had a commanding appearance. If anybody would have looked like this guy could be the king, it was Saul. But let us remember the principle that man looketh on the outward appearance, and God looketh on the heart. If you would have put Saul over here, seven foot four, like for the NBA player, muscular, good looking, suave, great speaker, and put little David over on this side, who is about 16 years old, little skinny chicken legs, I mean, just a little whip of a guy, and you would have asked the people, "Which one do you think could lead Israel?" They would pick him. They did pick him. But he was not God's choice.

So, getting ahead of myself here because I like this story. Saul comes to Samuel to be king. Samuel has been told that Israel wants a king after all the other nations, and he is upset. It is recorded in the Bible where him and God are having a dialogue about it, and he is not happy about it. But I want you to look in 1 Samuel chapter 9, verse 27. In the midst of this controversy, look what God told him.

1 Samuel 9:27

And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, and he passed on; but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

You see, when you are moving all the time, when you are always trying to take charge, when you are always trying to do something, God cannot show you anything. Because what you have got to do is stand still. What you have got to do is what Mary did, stay still in the house. You do not

run to meet Jesus. You are not going to change anything by that. What you do is you stand still, and then what does He say? God wants to show him the answer through the Word of God. He stands still in the midst of a controversy for God to show him what to do through the Word of God, the principles. It takes the patience to wait on God so you do not make a mistake in an emotional time.

I am just going to camp here for a few moments, but I am going to tell you, this is what gets us into problems. This is where we mess up life. This is where we do the wrong things for God because we are not following the principles to be something for God. This is where we get into a tough time. We get into a time where it is all coming down around our shoulders. As John Wayne in *The Sands of Iwo Jima* said to that lady one time, "And a little rain must fall," it is going to fall in our lives. Dark clouds are going to come. Problems are going to resurrect themselves. We are going to have to deal with issues. Sometimes they are emotional. Sometimes you are tired. Sometimes you are worn out. Sometimes it just weighs on you. I am telling you, I work with people all my life for over 50 years, and many of you do with me, and you know this is true. The problems that I deal with with people, no matter what they meet, are all based on bad choices they have made. Many times they made them in emotional moments. I think I told the Institute kids this: "Never make a permanent decision based on an emotional moment."

Then again, we see Samuel again back in 1 Samuel chapter 12. We see a little further on. We see Samuel up against the people who are rejecting God's Word. This will be the nation of Israel. In 1 Samuel chapter 12, verse 7, he calls the people together and he tells them, "Do not forget what God has done for you." In 1 Samuel chapter 12, verse 7, here is the advice he gives them, and this is the advice I give you. It is good advice.

1 Samuel 12:7

Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord of all the righteous acts of the Lord, which he did to you and to your fathers.

In any crisis, stop. Be still. Stand still. Remember how God brought you through the other areas in your life that you thought you would never get through. Now here is the problem: in most of God's people's lives, they do not have any of those because their whole life has been one bad choice after the other. Their whole life has been a compounding of interest on the problems that they have invested in. They never learn to stop, to stand still. Let God show you through the Word of God what He wants you to do. You make your decisions on what God has done for you in your life, not on the circumstances you find yourself in. Boy, that is so crucial. Because we are in a bad deal, and we think we have to react to it. We think we have to do something. You never do it that way. You stop. Stand still. You look how God has delivered you. You make your decision based on that.

"Who has time for that?" Like one time I talked to a lady, and I tried to get her a biblical plan. She was all kinds of emotional all over the place. I called her and I said, "Ma'am, have you been in the Bible like we said?" She says, "Oh, I cannot. I am so nervous, I do not have time to get in the Bible." Well, there you are. There you are. She says, "I cannot sleep at night. I have tried to take pills to get me to sleep. I even tried a stupid thing my mama said that I started to count

sheep," and she said that none of that works. I said, "None of that will work. I have a thing. If you cannot sleep at night, do not take pills. Do not count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd."

Stand still. Let God show you what He is doing. Martha cannot get it. Again, in the book of Exodus, chapter 14, when Israel leaves Egypt, you know the story, and Pharaoh chases after them. God opens up the Red Sea. They get across, and then they look back, and the Red Sea is still wide open. Here comes Pharaoh hot on their heels. They are afraid. They are fearful. Who would not be? They have forgotten the same God that opened it up for them to get through is the same God who can close it up. He is just waiting to drown everybody. But you see, when you are not operating on that mindset, you do not see those things. They are in a terrible situation. They are afraid. They are fearful. Moses tells them in Exodus chapter 14, verse 13:

Exodus 14:13

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

That is a pretty good promise. I wish God could give me that about everything in my life that I do not like. But notice the key word, "deliver." "Salvation," He says. "See the salvation of the Lord." That means God was going to deliver them. Now Mary stands still and allows God to show her, and she responds. Martha reacts and runs to the Lord so she can be the center of it all. "Look at me." What we learn from our definitive chapter is busyness is not a sign of spirituality.

In Psalms chapter 46, verse 10, He says it again:

Psalms 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

I want to tell you right now, and that is a Second Coming deal for somebody in the Tribulation to wait on God and be patient. But I am going to tell you right now, time spent in a crisis being still and waiting on God is never time wasted. It never is.

Now, having said that, that is easy to say. It is easy for me to say up here. It takes time to develop that, does it not? That still stands for God. It takes time to develop patience. You know the biggest problem? We all have our sub-level issues, but I am going to tell you what all of our problem is, and that is we are not patient. It is just that simple. That is human nature. One of the hardest things to do when things go south in our lives is to try to take charge and to fix it. It is just, we have never learned an understanding the trials and tribulations in our lives. It is not the fact that something bad happened in your life and my life that God, somebody ran in the throne room and said, "Hey, Lord, do you know what happened down there with Bob?" "Oh no, I was overlooking over here in Afghanistan. What happened?" "Oh really?" He knows. Nothing comes into our lives that He is not aware of. You see that in the Gospel. This story with Lazarus and Martha and Mary, God knows exactly what He wants to accomplish through this. Mary gets it.

Martha can never get to it. She is too busy being. She is too busy running around doing everything. She is too busy wanting everybody to see who she really is.

Oh, Martha just has no patience. She will not wait to see how God will get the glory out of this with the death of her brother. She has to run to Him. No, she just wanted, and I say it again, she just wanted everybody to say, "Whoa, there is Martha walking into town with Jesus. Wow. She must be something. I mean, Jesus probably called her, nobody else." No. I want to tell you, the "look at me" Christians will always be around us. They are always showing you what they have, always showing you this. "I got this. I got this. I bought this. I have this. I have this. I have this. I have this. I bought this. I got this. I got this. Look at all that I got." You know what? At the end of the day, it is all going up in smoke. The only thing that matters is what is going on inside you today.

James chapter 1, verses 3 and 4, he says:

James 1:3-4

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

It is well when you let God develop it, when you develop it into your own life, when you discipline yourself to do what? Stay still, look at what He has done in the past. Do not judge where you are at with God, with a situation you are in now. Judge it where you are at now on what He did for you the last time you were here. We all, in any given situation, like I said, we get into that. Patience, when you develop it, will be a perfect work in your life. That goes along with 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, when he says that the man of God through be thoroughly furnished, perfect unto all good works. That perfection comes from God developing in you the ability in crisis to stand still and listen to what God is telling you that He is trying to do.

Now here is how it works in you and in me: waiting on God, being still, developing patience. Romans 5:3 tells us:

Romans 5:3

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Now that is the first thing. How in the world do you glory in tribulation if you do not understand what God is doing in the tribulation in the first place? "Knowing that," here is why you glory in it: "Knowing that tribulation worketh patience." There it is.

Romans 5:4

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

The only way you learn to deal with people, the only way you learn to deal and do the ministry is not by somebody teaching you, though that is important because they need to point you in the right direction, but you know how you really learn it? By going through things and allowing God to develop patience in you. By going through things to see and understand that it is not about the

situation I am in. "This is scary. How do I deal with this?" "Oh, I know. I will remember the last scary situation I was in."

In Titus chapter 2, verses 1 and 2, it tells us that the mature Christian is sound in three things. He is sound in his faith. He is sound in his charity. And he is sound in his patience. As you grow in the Word of God, you will learn the patience of being still and God teaching you, giving you experience, developing you through it. I can teach you the Bible. We can have Bible Institute till the cows come home. Bible ministry, Bible study on Sunday morning, and I can give you everything in the world. But I am going to tell you what. It is like going to driver's ed class. Now we never had that when I was in school, but most of you have been in, had to go to driver's ed. Sometimes they give you money off your insurance. Sometimes it is required. I do not even know what a deal it is now. But you know, you go to classes, and they have somebody up there telling you about driving and tell you about this and tell you about that. They show you movies about how not to go too fast or all those things. Show you all this stuff. Around prom time, they will always bring in some wrecked car and say, "9,000 people were killed," and put it in the front of the school so you drive safe on the prom. But I want to tell you something. I am not saying that is bad. I am not saying they should not do that. But I am going to tell you this: you will never learn to drive that way.

You learn to drive by getting behind the wheel and driving. You learn by experience. You learn by realizing that you have a tremendous weapon in your hands that weighs about 3,000, 4,000 pounds. It can have the ability to go 100 miles an hour and will leap tall buildings at a single bound. You can kill people with it. You learn by doing. You learn by having the experience of driving that car. I am telling you, you will never learn your Bible completely from all the good Bible that I give you. You know how you will learn most of it? By going through some tough times and letting God bring you through it. By learning that He was there for you yesterday, He will be there for you tomorrow, and He will certainly be there for you today. By understanding that the reason why we get so whacked out and make bad choices, we do not stand still. We do not have any patience. We want to jump in and fix it ourselves. Or we want to make some stupid decision that we think is going to be the right one, and down the line, we see that that did not work out for you. Well, you did it. I am just telling you.

You all like studying your Bible, do not you? The front row does. You all like studying your Bible? That is a little better. Okay, I have a good study for you. Martha never got this study. She should have, but she never did. Part of the reason why she did not have this book in the Bible at the time, but that is beside the point.

1 Thessalonians 4:11

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

How is that one? That is not Martha. "She study to be quiet." Now, guys, do not put that in a Valentine's card to your wife this weekend. That is just a little bit of advice to you that probably will not go over very well. Drake is laughing back here. He does not even have a wife. But I do hear things, Drake. I hear that where you work, the women just think you are something else. Is

that right, Zach? Huh? Oh, yeah. Look at him. Look at him. "Oh, Drake, would you like a cup of coffee? Oh, I love you, buddy. You are my pal."

Study to be quiet. Learn to stand still and wait for God to do His perfect work through you, fulfilling God's will into your life so you can do God's plan for your life. Oh, Martha. She just does not have the patience for that, man. She cannot wait and see what God is going to get the glory out of this. She has to go to Him. Boy, I will tell you what. She just wanted everybody to see, "I am walking into town with Jesus."

Mary, on the other hand, and we are going to look at her next week, she does what we are told to do again, not only the places I showed you, but along with that, Luke chapter 19, verse 13. She stands still. She develops patience. Then as the Bible says in Luke 19:13, she "occupies till he comes." She just keeps on being what she is being and doing what she is doing. Just stand still and see what God is going to do to get the honor and glory out of all this. We have to grow to that point where we let God do that.

That is what we do here. That is one of the things that discipleship, Bible study, getting hammered every week on Thursday night and Sunday morning, it drives you, some of you, to the point where you finally get it. Because in every church in Christianity, you have Marys and you have Marthas. The real question today, are you a Mary or are you a Martha? I tell you, you decide.

VI. Martha's Lack of Spiritual Insight

Look at John 11:21.

John 11:21-22

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Now she is completely missing the whole picture here. One of the things that I like here in verse 22, which kind of details her a little bit, she says this a couple of times, "But I know." She does not know squat. She cannot see it from God's perspective. She only sees it from hers. The pattern all He has done so far for Israel is right in front of her. She has seen from the start of His earthly ministry that He has raised dead people. He has said a thousand times, "I have come to bring glory to My Father to the nation of Israel." She has absolutely no spiritual insight. I mean, He waited three days before He came. Instead of running to Him and opening up the dialogue, "If You had been here, my brother would not have died," being quiet, standing still, and saying, "You know what, God is going to do something here." It takes patience for you and for me in the midst of a tragedy to stand by and simply say, "Lord, You know what You are doing. I am going to watch You. You are going to get the honor and glory out of this," and let Him do it.

Look at John 11:23-24.

John 11:23-24

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Are you kidding me? He has been raising dead people for the last three years. In fact, if you really look at it, nobody ever stayed dead in His presence. All she can see is the general side of things. "Oh yes, oh yes, I know he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day. Oh yes, I get that." She just cannot get it. She is so busy running around doing, she cannot see or understand what God is really doing in this situation. There are so many of God's people like that. They just, God wants to do something. He began a good work, and sometimes some of the best work God will do in your life and in my life is through the tough times we have to go through. We want God to use us in the good times. Oh, we all won the lottery. We say, "God, thanks for using me." But boy, when the bad times come and the dark clouds roll in and the sun does not shine in our world, what do we do then?

Now look at John 11:25-26, the Lord tries again.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

He tries again. He said, "Hey, Martha, I am the resurrection. I came to do the work of the Father and raise him from the dead now. Not the last day. I have been doing this. I have said it over and over and over again. This is why I am here now. What, you missed Sunday school? You do not get it. I have been raising dead people from the start of My ministry. Forget the last day. I am here now. I am life. I am light. Whosoever believeth in Me shall never die. What is this about the resurrection and the last day? You do not get it. This is My sign to Israel. Have you been missing Bible study or church on Sunday? I am here doing what I am doing, the way I am doing it, through this tragedy in your life so God can get the glory. What part of that do you not understand?"

Look at her answer, John 11:27.

John 11:27

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Second verse, same as the first. She just cannot get it. All she can see is everything about God and the Bible in a general context. There is no insight. There is no depth. He has come to Israel, and He has come to Lazarus to raise him from the dead so that everybody in Israel will see that He has the gifts that were talked about in the Old Testament to be the glory of God through Christ to Israel. No understanding of what God is doing, how it affects the people around her. She cannot see the big picture of how God has a plan and wants to use the death of her brother and then Him coming to that brother, resurrecting that brother for the glory of God to Israel.

God wants to do His ministry through us and through our own situations. But we have got to get on the same page. We have got to quit looking at the tough times and the tribulations. I know we cause a lot of them ourselves. I get that, bad choices, but I want to tell you this: God can even use the stupid things that we do and make the wrong choice to get His glory out of you, get your head straight, and understand what is going on. You do not have to live in the mistakes that you have made all your life. There is a way out. Now it may take a while to get out, but you know what? God will give you a plan.

When I deal with people that come over and they have issues in their life that they are really struggling with, and a lot of times the issues go back 10, 15 years, man. I mean, they have got some things going on. They want to do what is right, and I can appreciate that. As long as somebody wants to do what is right, I will go the distance with you. So I will tell them. They will lay out everything, and they will tell me about this and about that and all the mistakes they made. I get all that. I do not really care. I always tell them this: "I do not care what you have done. I do not care where you have been. The only thing I care about is where do you want to go from here?" I am going to be honest with you. I cannot go back and fix all that today. I cannot go back and undo some of the things you have done. I cannot do that at one hour setting today. But what I can give you is this: I can give you a plan to get out of it that you will never have to make another bad choice in life. You know what, folks? The greatest thing that will get you out of the messes that we are all having in our lives is to quit making bad choices. If you just quit making bad choices, if I just quit making bad choices, or we start just making good choices, in time we will outdistance the bad ones.

It takes patience. It takes the ability to stand still. It takes the ability not to be a Martha. She is a perfect picture of God's people today who are saved and believe in Christ and yet go through their life never seeing or understanding anything that God will do in their own life. A life without the principles of God to guide you, oblivious to anything that God is doing.

VII. Martha's "Her Way" and "Master" vs. "Lord"

Here is another defining verse on her, trained eye. Look at John 11:28.

John 11:28

And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

Now, there are three things here you have got to see. First off, let me just say this. The things that we say is what really defines us. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." Verse 28 says, "And when she had said, she went her way." This is her problem. She has been going her way all her life, and a lot of God's people do the same thing: they go their way. There it is. Everything is going to have to be her way because she knows. She is so busy that she has no time to be like Christ. It all has to be her way. Yet she thinks she knows everything that is going on around her.

I will tell you something else. The second thing, another glaring thing in verse 28, and here it comes. When she goes to Mary her sister secretly, she says, "The Master hath come." She calls Him Lord when she is around people. But when she is in the private, secret conversations, He is the Master. That is exactly what Judas called Him when he betrayed Him. He never called Him Lord.

Now look at Luke 10:32 for a moment in contrast, and we will get into this next week. Mary is at His feet and calls Him Lord. He calls Him Lord when He is stronger, good, and gentle. When Mary sees God, she connects her body to her tongue and goes on with the sword. So then He begins His work based upon Christ in my entrails. Now what she is doing is grounding down to the watch brief, trying to be normal before He makes it open. She is master. Martha has never made Christ Lord of her life. It has always been her way. Now let me ask you, do you see yourself in any of this? Do I see myself in any of this?

Now the third thing, you have got to love this. She comes secretly. There is no record anywhere in the Bible that Jesus told her to go tell her sister that He wanted to see her. She is lying. You say, "How do you know that?" Because I deal with Marthas all my life. She is the minister of information. She wants to be the one. Terry, you have had a few of these in your time, buddy? Sure you have. Jim, I am sure you have too. Zach, I know you have. We kill them together. She is a good person. She is a good person. But she wants to be the one to come secretly. "The Master told me to tell you He wants to see you. Do not tell anybody." You know why? She has to have the private information coming from the Lord, and the Lord disperses it through her. Martha, Martha, Martha. Not you, sweetheart. Not you, Martha. You are okay. Martha, Martha, Martha. Wow. I am telling you.

This is what she got. Martha will be a picture of most of God's people today. They will do something for God, but never spiritually be anything for God. They represent a Christian who can never see the spiritual side or inside of anything that God is doing. Only what directly affects them, because they know it all. They are unteachable. There is no depth to them. Only what directly affects their world. Everything will just be in a general sense. Never any depth or understanding to them when it comes to spiritual issues. There are no principles. There is no Word of God. There is no standing still. There is no staying still. There is no being quiet. There is no application. There is no perspective. There is no discernment. So when tough times do come, and they are going to come, she reacts instead of responds, and so do we. The reason? Two of them. It is always got to be their way. And Christ is Master, but He is never Lord. I will tell you something right now, folks. You can write this down. It is not original to me, but I will steal it. If He is not Lord of all in your life, He is not Lord at all. So in her life, there is no perfect work. In God's people's lives today, there is no perfect work of God developing them.

VIII. Martha's Busyness vs. Mary's Worship

In the few minutes we have left, to get a complete picture of all this, we need to go to another passage that deals with our beloved Martha again. It will be Luke chapter 10, verses 38 through 42. We are going to pick up Martha again. Be careful, she is heavy.

Luke 10:38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Wow, here we go. Now this will be another defining passage for us on our dear lady here. Again, the Bible will always define us by what we say. In verses 39 and 40, Mary is at the feet learning His word. We will get into her next week. Martha is cumbered about with much serving. Mary will be still at His feet learning His word. Martha is running around all over the place trying to impress the Lord with all she is doing. Mary is learning, Martha is laboring. Martha is worrying, Mary is worshiping. Martha is busy doing for God. Mary is busy being something for God.

Now watch this, Luke 10:40. The Bible says she is "cumbered with much serving." I am sure she was. Now the Lord is there, and she is trying to impress Him. Oh, I could just close my eyes and see the scene. I mean, she is out there, Lord sitting there just checking it all out, Mary down at His feet, learning the word, and oh Martha, she is bouncing back and forth like a rubber ball off the wall, man. She is just all over the place. She is just doing, doing, doing. She is doing what she is looking to see if the Lord is watching. Then she is coming back and not watching. He is not watching. She is trying to impress Him with her labor.

When He does not nominate her for the Christian of the Year Award, she finally has enough, and she has to go to Him in Luke 10:40, and she says, "Lord, I do not get it. Do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" Well, first of all, from the story, it is only her, Mary, and Jesus. What have we got? Are we feeding the cars going by on the road or what? See, it is not about that. It is about the Lord was not watching her. The Lord was not saying to Mary, "Mary, you are doing good, but you need to be like Martha. Martha really has it down. Look at her go. Why, I will tell you what, she has baked the cookie. She has put the cake in the car. She has washed the chariot. She has fed the horses. She is really doing good. In fact, she is probably going to get Christian of the Year in Time magazine." No. He says nothing. You know why? God, for any potential Marthas out there, God is not watching you. He is too busy focusing on who is sitting at His feet learning the word. That is where He is at.

So she goes to Him. "Lord, dost thou not care? My sister hath left me to serve alone." So many of God's people are like this. So busy doing ministry. They get the same attitude. "Look at me. I am doing it, and you are not. Well, I have been a Christian for 20 and 30 years. I mean, you have not done what I am doing. I watched what you did, and that is not the way you do it. That is not

the way I would do it. I know because I am a strong Christian, and I have been in this business a lot longer than you. You should be like me." Why, you know what? My favorite character in the Bible is Elijah on the mountaintop standing all alone and saying, "Oh Lord, look at me. I am standing all by myself serving You. There is nobody with me." The Lord says, "I have some bad news for you. There are 4,000 over here that have not bowed the knee to Baal." Hey guys, you are never alone. God is never going to see what you do without you being what He wants you to be first. It is just simple as that.

The Lord says to her in Luke 10:41:

Luke 10:41

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Now let me translate that for you. I got my Greek lexicon out last night and broke this down in the Greek. Amazingly, He said the same thing in the Hebrew, so I have got to make it up. He says, "Martha, I love you, hon. I really do. I love you to death. But you have got to get your nose out of everybody else's business. You have set yourself up as the Holy Spirit of God. You think you know everything. Why, you ran out there to see Me for the reason that you just wanted everybody in town to see you walk in town with Me. Yeah, I know everything, Martha. I know that when you come to Me, you call Me Lord. But when you talk to your sister secretly, you call Me Master. I will tell you something else. You and I both know, I did not tell you to tell her that. Martha, you need to give up your position of the minister of information. You need to understand that you have set yourself as the Holy Spirit of God, determining who is really spiritual and who is not based on what you do and they do not."

Luke 10:42

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

What you really need to do, Martha, and I know this is going to be tough for you, you may not come back to church. You may go be part of the Roman Empire and bring the nails when they crucify Me. But let me tell you what you need to do. You need to do what your sister is doing and what you are not doing. I bet that hurt. You are serving, but she is worshiping. Now what part of that do you not get? You have seen the same miracles that she has. I have been a friend of this family. You know everything that is going on in My ministry, what I am trying to do, why cannot you see that?

Then He says, "She has got the good part." You see, she had the will of God. That is the good part. The good part is not what you do. The good part is what you are. The good part is not what you are serving. The good part is where you are at. Are you at His feet? Are you learning and worshiping? Or are you running around all over the place pretending that you are spiritual? She has got the good part. She has got the will of God down. You know what, Martha? That cannot ever be taken away from her. It cannot be taken away from her because it is what she has built and I have given her, and we are working together on the inside. That perfect patience. It is on

the inside. Nobody can take that from you. They can take your ministry from you. They can take your church from you. They can take everything out there that you do. But what they can never take is what you and God have built on the inside. When you and God build it on the inside, I guarantee you, it does not matter what man says or does to you. God has got something else He is going to do because He does it through the will of God in your life to establish the plan of God in your life. Martha cannot get it.

He says, "You are missing the good part, hon. You are missing the part that when a tragedy comes into your life, you need to stay still. You need to be patient. You realize that through the trials of life, you allow God to take you and give you insight, give you experience, show you what He is doing. Martha, it is not about what you are going through that is the main issue. No matter how tough it is, that is not the main issue. The main issue you lose sight of is what is God doing through it to get the honor and glory out of it."

IX. Conclusion: The Perfect Work of God

This is the real meaning for us when the Bible says, "being one with Christ," seeing on the inside, getting discernment, getting perspective, seeing what God sees that nobody else sees, like Abraham who called those things that were not as though they were, like Moses, seeing Him who is invisible, and to allow patience to do her perfect work in our lives. You see, you can learn all the Bible you want. You can quote verses out, you can have a photographic memory and learn everything that you want to learn, but at the end of the day, is there a perfect work in your life? A patience. That through any tribulation, if you are still, that God will give you patience, that is the ability to wait on God, not to jump in and try to fix it, give you through patience experience, He will teach you through the process of what He wants you to see. Then hope. It is not, "I hope I get out of this." It is not hope that. It is the hope that God was there for you yesterday, He will be there for you today and tomorrow. It is the hope that through the Word of God and His principles, there are no bad things that happen to God's people. All things together work for the good. It is us together, everything in our life. "All things work together for good to them who are called of God, are called according to His purpose." Our problem is we are not patient. God can do a work in you, but He cannot do a perfect work.

I do not know about you, but I cannot speak for you. I do not want God just to do a work for me. I want the perfect work. You know why? Because I have got the perfect God, so I need the perfect work. I will tell you something else, I have got the perfect Bible, so I have got to have the perfect work. I will tell you something else, I want my millennial and heirs to be perfect. So I am going to get the perfect work. See, it all goes together, but it is not about what we do, it is about what we are, allowing God to take us.

I always thought about when the devil came before God in Job chapter 1 and again in Job chapter 2. It always amazed me when the Lord says to the devil, "What have you been doing?" He says, "Oh, I have been walking up and down on the earth and going to and fro from it, just checking things out." Now Job went through some tremendous times. He went through things in seven days that you and I will never go through in a lifetime. But the thing that is amazing to me, that it was not the devil that brought God's name up. It was God who brought Job's name up, out of the

clear blue, walking to and fro, going down, checking things out, out of the clear blue, God says, "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" You see, God had a message for Job, but He wanted to use the devil to be the delivery boy of that message. Sometimes when we go through tough times, just like that, we get so caught up with the delivery boy, we never get the message. Patience, being still, just letting God be God, realizing that nothing is going to happen to you that He does not want to happen, and whatever that is needs to be okay with you and me. I let God get the perfect work out of it for you, for me, and for others. At the end of the day, God gets the honor and glory out of it.

Okay, that is Martha. Next week, we are going to get into Mary. Then the week after, we will get into Lazarus.