

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)
First Friday of Each Month
Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins
John Thompson
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

help him to become better than he had ever been before. How his heart must have soared when Jesus appeared to him and forgave him!

What may we take from this account? Above all else we are reminded that our Lord is merciful, patient, and forgiving. Suppose that we were in our Lord's position. How wonderful that each of us may be forgiven provided we meet the conditions for that forgiveness. Do you stand forgiven before Jesus Christ? If not, He stands prepared to forgive and save you if you will but do what He asks. Jesus is ready. Are you?

Note

Lord willing, Paul Fox will have an article in the next bulletin. Paul's articles are always well thought out and timely. Writing an article requires study and careful thought. It's a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. If you would like to submit one simply pass it on to John or myself.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

The Poynter family, Jim Parsons, Julie Patton, Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Vicky Litmer, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro

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Mary of Bethany: A Most Humble Servant

John Thompson

How the world cries out its need for humble people! It is a cry of desperation and anguish; a need so obvious it surely ought to be heeded. Yet, for the most part, it goes undetected, overwhelmed by the ongoing turmoil of people's hatred for one another. You see, humility makes little, if any sound. It neither trumpets its approach nor announces its presence. Were it to do so, it would no longer be humility. Humility is not highlighted by ceremony, by decoration, by pageantry. Were it to be so marked, it would no longer be humility. Humility does not call attention to itself, but if one will look for it, be attuned to it, it can be seen, studied, and put on. Such a humble woman was Mary of Bethany. Humble people are surprised when their acts of service are recognized, and I have no doubt she would have been quite shy to know she is presented in inspired scripture as a most humble servant.

Luke 10:38-41 tells of a visit Jesus made to the home of two sisters, Martha and Mary. Although the passage does not say they lived in Bethany, nor is Lazarus mentioned, I am presuming those two women, are the same ones in John 11 and 12. Mary, in contrast to her sister, Martha, chose to take advantage of the time with Jesus. She *sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching*. When Martha complained to Jesus that Mary was making her serve alone, Jesus showed his approval of Mary. *"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."*

The main person on Martha's mind was herself. Her complaint was expressed in what Mary had done to her, i.e. left her to serve alone. Jesus was not on her mind as the teacher of wondrous spiritual truths, but as one who could straighten out Mary. Martha's pride was not a malicious pride. She was not promoting herself at the expense of Mary, yet it was a pride that made her

the center of her own attention. Mary, on the other hand, recognized that Jesus offered a chance to learn from the Master Teacher, a chance that came much too infrequently. And so, in all humility, she sat at his feet, and in all humility, she listened. She, both physically and mentally, lowered herself and elevated Jesus.

John, chapter 11, tells of Jesus raising Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, from the dead. The passage describes the sister's actions upon learning that Jesus had come. *Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.* ²¹ *Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. Mary sat still in the house, not having heard of Jesus' arrival. When Martha told Mary that Jesus had come and was calling for her, Mary quickly hurried to meet him, and fell at his feet, weeping and said the exact same thing to Jesus as did Martha: if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.* There is no way to know for sure, but Martha's statement seems to me to be a bit self-centered, perhaps even somewhat accusatory about Jesus not coming sooner while Mary's seems to be an expression of her deep sense of loss.

Six days before the Passover, as Jesus was dining with his friends in Bethany, Mary performed her final act of humility recorded in the Bible. It is an act of lowering oneself and exalting the other that remains to this day surpassed only by the Savior's sacrificial death. She poured, not soap and water, but a very expensive oil of the purest kind on his feet; in her mind nothing was too good for the savior. And she wiped his feet with her hair; nothing was of importance about her in her mind.

Do I show my humility to the extent that Mary did? Do you? The church, our families, our work places, our nation, our world all desperately need more people like Mary of Bethany. We can learn so much from that godly woman.

“And Peter”

Adam Litmer

Peter always seemed to be the strong one. He was the one with the courage to step out of the boat and onto the surface of a restless, tossing sea (Matthew 14:28-29). He was the one who spoke up upon the Mount of Transfiguration when James and John were rendered speechless (Mark 9:2-7). He was the one who actually rebuked Jesus for speaking of that which He was to suffer at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes (Matthew 16:21-22). He was the one who drew his

sword and struck off the ear of Malchus at the Lord's arrest (John 18:10), disregarding the fact that he and the others were outnumbered by trained soldiers (John 18:3). He was the one who declared, *Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death* (Luke 22:33).

What do you suppose went through Peter's mind when Jesus responded to him by saying, *I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me* (Luke 22:34). Matthew tells us his immediate response in 26:35: *Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!* There is no doubt that Peter meant every word he said. The courage he had demonstrated in the past seemed to lend credence to his declaration. Yet several hours later Peter failed the test as thoroughly as it could be failed.

Then they seized him (Jesus) and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, 'This man was also with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' And a little later someone else saw and said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not.' And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, 'Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about.' And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:54-62). Peter was a broken man.

We can only imagine his anguish of spirit in the days leading up to the resurrection. Jesus didn't have to imagine. Knowing Peter's anguish, Jesus sent a special message of comfort to Peter in Mark 16:7-8. *Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."*

Perhaps Peter no longer felt worthy to be considered among the Lord's disciples. Luke indicates that Jesus may have appeared first to Peter in Luke 24:34. Yes, he was a broken man; yet Jesus was prepared to forgive him and

