

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Saint Martha, Mary and Lazarus**

**Forbearance is the state of patient endurance under confusing, difficult and trying circumstances, situations and times.**

**1 John 4:7-16; Psalm 34; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42**

Martha, Mary and Lazarus were friends of Jesus. Their home was where Jesus had the freedom to just walk in and feel at home. This is a home where Jesus showed real human feelings - including show of tears.

Martha's conversation with Jesus shows that she was able to say just what she thought without inhibitions or any pious considerations. At the dinner honoring Jesus' visit, Martha asked the support of Jesus in getting her sister Mary to pitch in and help. In reply, Jesus invited her to sit with her sister and listen - to "choose the better part". In a culture where women were not permitted to study with a rabbi, Jesus took a bold stand in treating these two friends the way he did.

**Martha was bold, free, uninhibited. When Lazarus died, she said to Jesus: "I know you are the Messiah". Even a practical, down-to-earth person is capable of deep spiritual insights. Being practical and being contemplative are not opposed to each other - they are not mutually exclusive. It is very possible to blend the two.**

Martha developed a reputation over the centuries as the practical, active Christian. She is often pictured with a cooking ladle or a set of household keys. She is the patron saint of cooks and of hospitality.

**Welcome Christ into your home!!!! Be hospitable!!!!**

**Be strong!!! Be Courageous!!! Be Free!!! Speak your mind!!!**

**Blend the active and the contemplative; the practical and the reflective!!!**

**Welcome the "Marys and the Marthas" in your life. Meet them where they are.**

**The people we meet are carriers of spiritual wealth - they are important symbols of spiritual life and wisdom. Listen to them and learn from them.**

I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet strangely, I am ungrateful to those teachers. (Kahlil Gibran)

**Saint of the day, July 29 - St. Martha of Bethany and 41 other saints are remembered this day.**

We have very little information about Martha's birth and early life. Martha, Mary and Lazarus were friends of Jesus. Their home was where Jesus had the freedom to just walk in and feel at home. This is a home where Jesus showed real human feelings - including show of tears. Martha's conversation with Jesus shows that she was able to say just what she thought without inhibitions or any pious considerations. At the dinner honoring Jesus' visit, Martha asked the support of Jesus in getting her sister Mary to pitch in and help. In reply, Jesus invited her to sit with her sister and listen - to "choose the better part". In a culture where women were not permitted to study with a rabbi, Jesus took a bold stand in treating these two friends the way he did.

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