

1982 Martha
by members of Loyalty Chapter 118

The story of Martha is taken from John 11, verses 1 thru 57 and from this story we learn many lessons. Some of these are the willingness of the mind to accept spiritual opportunity and growth, the willing discharge of duty as a source of joy, the approachability of God by mortals and the proof positive of life eternal.

Martha is the fourth Star Point Heroine. She represents the Ideal Sister. In assuming the responsibility for the care and comfort of her brother, Lazarus, and her sister Mary. Martha means "fortitude" "abiding" and "instructed by Christ". We learn that Martha had the fortitude to maintain her faith, even when her brother died, by abiding in the Word of God as she had been instructed by Christ.

The vibrant, deep green color of the springtime foliage is dedicated to Martha. Green, the symbol of renewed life and growth is the symbol of the new life which is eternal for all men through Christ. The fern is dedicated to Martha because its endless greenness is symbolic of the endlessness of eternal life.

Faith, belief in eternal life and faith in the immortality of the soul are the ideals of Martha. The Broken Column is the emblem of Martha. Martha's faith in God's promise of eternal life through faith in Christ remained constant even when her brother's life, like a broken column was broken off by mortal death. The Lamb is the symbol of the deeper meaning of the story of Martha. Christ, the Lamb slain for the sins of the world, raised Martha's brother from the dead as proof positive of the power of God to bestow eternal life on all who would believe the word in Christ the son.

Martha represents the winter season because she represents the knowledge that the winter of mortal life or death comes to all.

The second beatitude "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted" is associated with Martha.

When the story of Martha begins, the area in which it took place was a land of turbulence and confusion. Because Jesus had made plain his relationship to God, the people felt that He was an imposter, a madman, and an altogether dangerous man. In spite of the prophetic words of John which they had observed being fulfilled, and in spite of the miracles which they had seen performed, the masses were still unwilling to believe, follow or obey the Word of Christ and the Way of God.

Therefore, this is why Jesus retreated to a place this side of the Jordan, which is also the same place at which John executed his baptisms. It was here that Martha and Mary sent him a simple message which was "Lord, behold he whom thou lovest is sick.

This message to Christ asked for nothing. It was just information to their dear friend, informing Him of the illness of a mutually cherished person. There was no request for Christ to use His Divine Power to remove the disease. No frantic plea to have the ravages of the illness halted. Christ was a man, a friend of the suffering Lazarus, and a friend of the two sisters. They knew that Christ would want to know of these circumstances. They had faith that Jesus the friend and Christ the Son of God would come to them.

When Jesus received the message that Lazarus was ill, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but gloried thereby. When Jesus said this, He knew that the illness which would result in mortal death for Lazarus at this time was to be of a temporary nature. He knew that the illness was planned to glorify God and to glorify the son of God.

As Jesus arrived near the place, He discovered that Lazarus had been buried for four days. He also discovered that many of the Jews had come to comfort the sisters and mourn for Lazarus. When Martha heard the news that Jesus was coming, she hurried from her home to meet Him, but Mary remained in the house. Martha told Jesus that she knew if He had been present her brother would not have died. She knew that whatever Jesus asked of God, God would give it to Him.

Song: My Faith Looks up to Thee

Jesus answered her simply saying Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha did not realize that Jesus meant that Lazarus should rise again right then, and therefore she continues the conversation. She reiterates her belief in the resurrection at the last day. Then Christ spoke those dearly loved words, 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. Believeth thou this? Martha told Christ she did believe.

Song: I believe

Martha's belief in Christ and His Word resulted in proof positive of Christ's teaching concerning Life Eternal through belief in the Word of God. God reunited the spirit or soul of the deceased Lazarus in his mortal body and he lived again on earth.

Jesus believed that God would hear Him call, for His Faith and Love were always pure. When God raised Lazarus from the dead, He gave to mankind a true gift. He gave them proof of Eternal Life which will last throughout all time.

Song: Just a closer walk with thee