



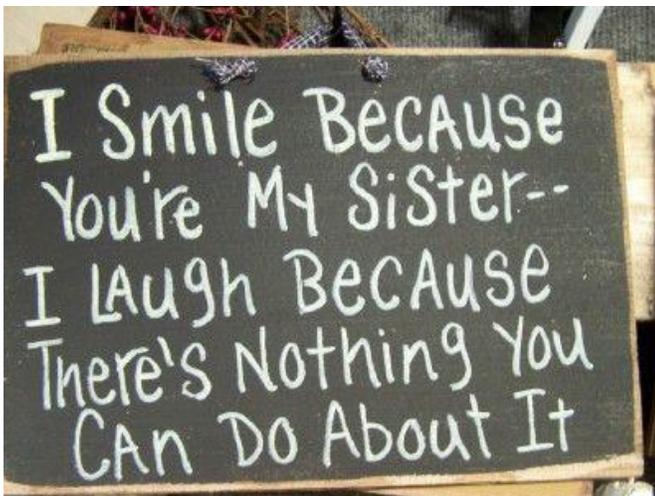
Female BFFs (Biblical Friends Forever)

Mary & Martha – “It’s A Sistah Thang”

Read Luke 10, John 11 & 12

July 2018

Throughout scripture, I believe one relationship that is as relevant from Biblical times to our modern-day is between Mary and Martha. Although they seemed as different as two people could possibly be, they were as real as siblings are today. We saw them fight, cry, struggle with their faith, and fulfill prophecy. Whenever they were mentioned (good or bad) there was a common thread – they were always together (with Jesus). Let’s take a closer look:



The first time we’re introduced to them in Luke 10:38-42, we got a glimpse of what really goes on in Christian households. First, we learned how different they are. Martha was the “doer” (mover, shaker, cook & baker). Mary was the “thinker” (contemplative, sentimental & reserved). I love that GOD went to the lengths of including this tiff between these sisters. Essentially, He is teaching us two things about relationships: 1. conflict is unavoidable (even among the most loving sisters) – it’s what you do with it that matters. Notice that Martha (annoyed as she was) did not address Mary in that state of mind but expressed her frustration to Jesus so He could settle the matter. 2. You can be extremely close to someone you are extremely different from. The latter part of 1 Samuel 16:7 says “man looks at the outward appearance, but The Lord looks at the heart”. In most sermons preached on this passage, Martha gets a bad rap because it appears Jesus took Mary’s side for sitting at

his feet. But Mary would never have met Jesus were it not for Martha (vs.38) – just sayin’ ...;

Next, we encounter them under far different circumstances – the untimely death of their brother, Lazarus (John 11). We see growth from their last encounter in several ways: all differences are put aside as they comfort each other; they sent for Jesus at the first sign of trouble (vs. 3); as Martha is mentioned by name first as those Jesus loved, He didn’t favor Mary over her based on their previous encounter (vs. 5); Martha goes to meet Jesus first, while Mary stays home (vs. 20); even through Martha’s busyness, she still understands who Jesus is (vs. 27); as different as the two sisters are outwardly, their initial response to Jesus was exactly the same – “if you were here, my brother would not have died” (vs. 21 & 32); and they both saw Jesus do the impossible for them.

Lastly, we see them at the pinnacle of their faith – less than a week before Jesus was crucified (John 12). This timing is significant because it shows the impact these sisters had on Jesus. He knew his time on earth was drawing near, yet he accepted a dinner invitation from them (NOTE: Other than the 12 disciples, Mary and Martha were the last ones he spent time with prior to his death). True to form, Martha cooked while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and anointed them with an extravagant perfume. This time there was no fighting – just total acceptance of who they each were (in Jesus).

Which sister do you most identify with?

ACTION ITEM: *A special fellowship event will be planned (TBD). Come with your new friend and share a report of how your relationship has grown over the past few months.*