

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 104

Ministry from Galilee to Judea ~ Part 5

In our last post, we explored the **Parable of The Good Samaritan**. In this post, we learn of **Yeshua's Visit with Mary & Martha** and **How to Pray**.

Also unique to **Luke**, this account introduces **Martha** and **Mary**, two of **Yeshua's** supporters and friends. The **Gospel of John** elaborates on **Yeshua's** friendship with these women and their brother, **Lazarus**.

Yeshua's Visit with Mary & Martha

³⁸ *On their way, Yeshua and His talmidim came to a village* (Bethany, about half a mile east of Jerusalem) *where a woman named Marta welcomed Him into her home.* ³⁹ *She had a sister called Miryam who also sat at the Lord's feet* (a familiar posture of a learning talmid) *and heard what He had to say.* ⁴⁰ *But Marta was busy with all the work to be done; so, going up to Him, she said, "Sir, don't you care that my sister has been leaving me to do all the work by myself?"* ⁴¹ *However, the Lord answered her, "Marta, Marta, you are fretting and worrying about so many things!* ⁴² *But there is only one thing that is essential. Miryam has chosen the right thing, and it won't be taken away from her."* ¹

The double use of **Marta's** name serves as a gentle rebuke. **Only one thing that is essential.** While the work **Martha** is doing is important, it is not the most crucial thing - **Yeshua** Himself is. **Miryam** has chosen to listen and learn as a disciple - spending time in **Yeshua's** presence. **It won't be taken away from her.** A relationship with **Yeshua** cannot be stolen from a person. **Yeshua** is pleased that **Miryam** is learning from Him and that her focus is on time with Him. **Yeshua** had made a similar point earlier about concerns that His **talmidim** did not fast - there, He noted that time celebrating with Him is the focus of His **talmidim** (Luke 5:34).

Yeshua Teaches Us How to Pray ~ Part 1

Before we dig into this passage, I want to emphasize this is not the **Lord's Prayer**. It is the **Talimidim's Prayer**. He is teaching us how to pray! His prayer is in Yochanan 17!!!

¹ *One time, Yeshua was in a certain place praying. As He finished, one of the talmidim said to Him, "Sir, teach us to pray, just as Yochanan taught his talmidim."*

Teach us to pray. In today's secular society, people often feel unable to pray and assume that the ability to pray is natural to some and lacking in others. But **Yeshua's talmidim**, although they too felt inadequate in prayer, were on the right track in supposing that **Yeshua** could teach them how to pray. His teaching consisted of four parts:

- (1) What to pray for (vv. 2–4),
- (2) The importance of persistence (vv. 5–10),
- (3) The certainty of a positive answer because of **God's** love and goodness (vv. 9–13), and
- (4) The ultimate gift, the **Ruach HaKodesh**, who is the source and power for all right prayer (v. 13b; see Ro 8:26–27). ²

² *He said to them, "When you pray, say:
'Father,
May your name be kept holy.*

¹ Luke 10:38–42.

² David H. Stern, Jewish New Testament Commentary.

May your Kingdom come.

³ Give us each day the food we need.

***⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we too, forgive everyone who has wronged us.
And do not lead us to hard testing.'"*** ³

Mattityahu's version of the **Talimidim's Prayer** speaks of forgiveness for debts; metaphorically, sin and debt are related - sin functions like a debt before **God** and others (Matt 6:12). **Luke** conveys this idea in the prayer's following line.

³ Luke 11:1–4.