



John 11: All about Martha

John 11:20 **“When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.”**

This is the best for last. Martha is opinionated, brash, gutsy, and strong. She is mostly, probably, and incurably head strong. So, to begin with, there is back story. For this we have to go to the Gospel of Luke. He is the only one who relates a great story and introduction to the sisters: Mary and Martha. They also have a brother Named Lazarus. To understand Martha in the gospel of John we need a bit more. In Luke 10 we find Jesus sitting at a table. A sister named Mary is sitting also at his feet. Jesus is teaching and Mary is soaking it up. Yet, in the kitchen, probably crashing and banging pots is Martha.

Martha is making dinner. I bet she had been surprised by her brother offering this crowd a snack. In her home? By surprise? To boot, there sat the famous teacher named Jesus. “Is my Sister Mary helping me,” cries Martha with flour tossed across her face? No, she is sitting at the feet of the teacher. Mary is taking in the words while relaxing. It’s woman’s work in the home. Stupid brother Lazarus just let’s them all walk in. Martha has had enough.

She bursts into the living room and demands that Jesus tell her lazy sister to come help with the food. Jesus intern has that smooth annoyingly calm voice. “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you

are worried and upset about many things.” There is no more written by Luke. Why? It’s the Bible that’s why. Martha probably exploded on Jesus, her brother, and everyone else. That is strong Martha. Fast forward to John 11 and we find that Martha’s brother Lazarus has died. Jesus is told a few days prior to come quickly (probably by Martha). They all new Jesus could heal. Jesus on the other hand decided to make a point. He takes his time. Just enough time for Lazarus to die. So here comes Martha marching down the road.

She had heard that Jesus was finally comes a little too late.

John 11:20-22 *“When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”*

Just let that sink in. It says just before that Jesus is still 2 miles away. I bet he was. Martha marched for 2 miles to confront Jesus. It also says Mary stayed home. I bet she did. This is bold. (Paraphrasing now) Mr. Holy, remember my brother Lazarus whom you said you loved? He died. Why the hell did you take so long. I know you can heal Mr. God. I’ve seen it. Then we get full fledged Martha. Even now God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus preaches from time to time. He had said God loves us. He said anything is possible with God. Jesus said that we can ask God in his name. Martha is bold. She has spunk. Imagine throwing Jesus under the bus. I love Martha because she has faith. She is real. I bet Jesus made her even madder by smiling at her. God loves people that are direct and faithful. Martha rocks! Two final thoughts. One is after Lazarus is raised from the dead who is serving dinner again: Martha. Secondly, who is not mentioned at the cross or tomb of Jesus: Martha. I bet the death of Jesus destroyed her. Martha is a super strong woman with a ton of passion.