

THE STORY HOUSTON: **inspiring non-religious Houstonians** to follow Jesus

## **CHASING HOPE:** how ordinary people make extraordinary disciples

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PART 5: THE WOMEN | 2.23.20 | [thestoryhouston.church](http://thestoryhouston.church) | [@thestoryhouston](https://www.instagram.com/thestoryhouston)  
PASTOR ERIC HUFFMAN | [fb/ig @pastorerichuffman](https://www.facebook.com/pastorerichuffman) | [mail\\_pastors@thestory.church](mailto:mail_pastors@thestory.church)

### **INTRO TO CHASING HOPE**

What do the lives of Jesus' first disciples teach us about authentic Christianity? What inspiration can we glean from those women and men who gave it all to follow him? Each week in this series we're taking an up-close, between-the-lines look at some of the everyday people who chose to follow Jesus, and we'll find ourselves in each story.

### **THE WOMEN WHO LOVED JESUS**

As we've learned throughout this series, being a disciple of Jesus Christ always comes at a cost. What social and economic factors might have made it even more costly for women than for men?

What did it mean to be a "normal" Jewish girl or woman in the time of Jesus?

### **INTRO TO MARY OF BETHANY**

Who was Mary of Bethany? What do we know about her life?

What do Mary of Bethany's interactions with Jesus tell you about her faith?

- Luke 10:38-42 (Martha and Mary Welcome Jesus)
- John 11:17-37 (Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead)
- John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus)

### **WHO ARE YOU CHASING?**

What was the significance of Mary pouring so much expensive perfume on Jesus' feet? Why was Judas upset?

Time for some real talk: would you say you're more of a "Mary" or more of a "Judas" in terms of the story in John 12? Are you willing to pour all your hopes, aspirations, and prized possessions on the feet of Jesus, or are you still looking out for your own self-interest?

## **BIBLE PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE**

**Luke 10:38-42** As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

**John 11:17-37** On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

**John 12:1-8** Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."