

# The Authority of Intimacy



***“Jesus’ mode of operation... is to call His friend, His bridal partner, one with whom He has shared the secrets of His heart, to His side. He has given her the authority to stir His heart to do the work that needs to be done. He will not do it on His own. He will not do it without His friend. So when Mary prays... the door is opened, all the power of heaven comes to bear upon the issue of the day and resurrection power is released.” Gary Wiens (adapted)***

Most of us struggle with times of delay. Through our human eyes it’s hard to wait, and it feels so unnecessary and like such a waste of time. But God wants to show us the authority of intimacy in two very familiar Bible stories in the life of Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:42 and John 11:1-44 we see the strategy in delay that leads to authority and resurrection power.

In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus came to visit Martha and Mary in their home. How would you feel if the living God came to visit you? As you know in this familiar Bible story, Martha was distracted with all the preparations and Mary sat at Jesus’ feet listening to what He had to say. Mary chose to sit at the feet of the living God. Martha was distracted by all the preparations. She was doing good things for God, but she was distracted and worried. She said in verse 40:

***“Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”***

We can understand her point of view. After all, Jesus was there and the food had to be prepared. From Martha’s point of view, it looked foolish or even lazy not to be serving food to Jesus at this time. She didn’t understand God’s priority. But Mary was cultivating intimacy, and Jesus said to Martha in verse 41-42:

***“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”***

So often we can be focused on our ministry instead of sitting at Jesus’ feet. It’s not that ministry isn’t important. It’s very important. But we need to get the oil. We must put first things first. We can’t do the second thing first. Ministry will burn us out, exhaust us, and cause worry and anxiety just as it did in Martha’s life if we don’t have the priority right. Loving God is the first priority, and then everything else will fall into place. Ministry can then be done with joy and gladness.

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