



FRIENDS WITH JESUS

One of our greatest gifts on earth is the gift of friendship

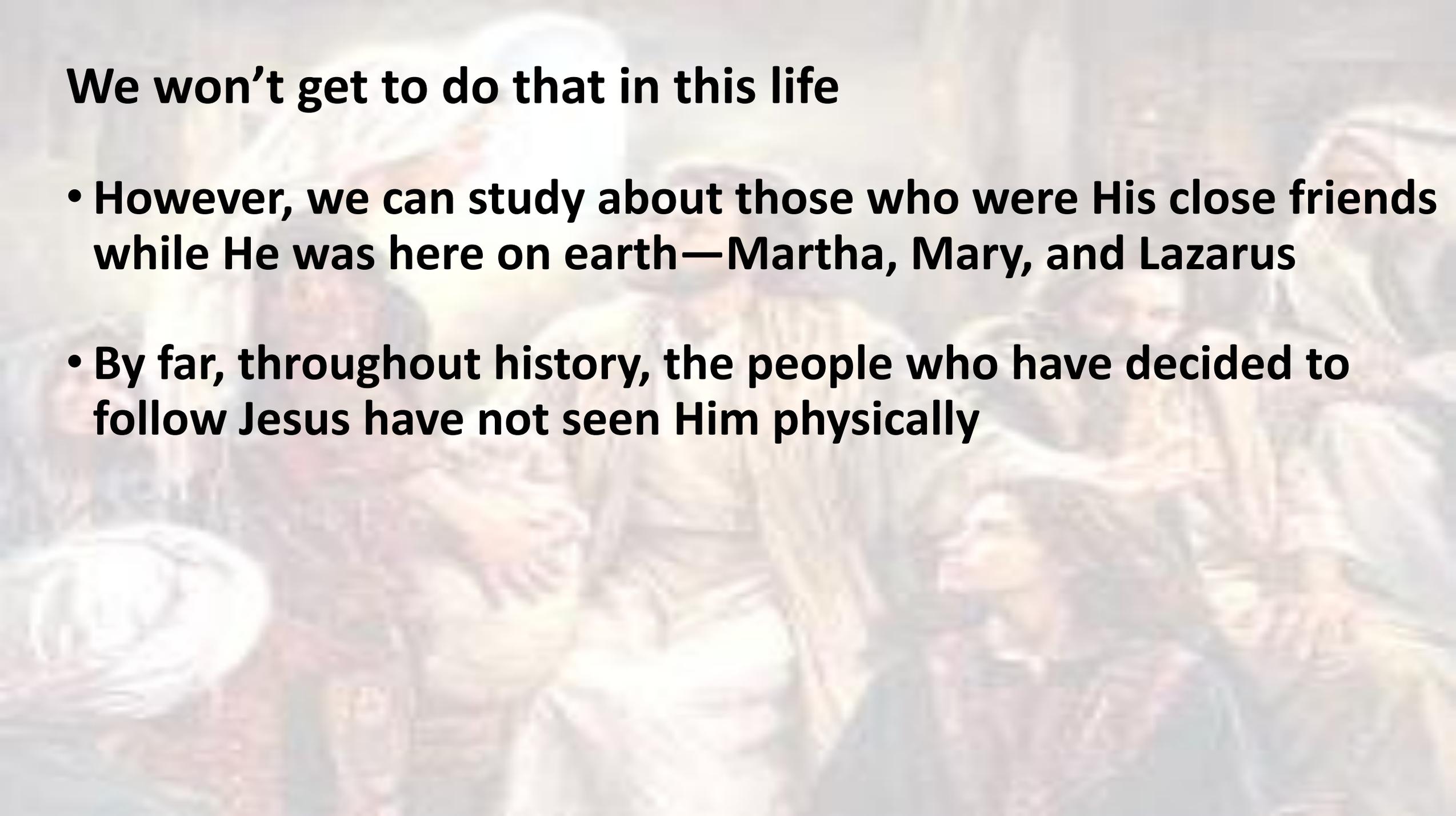
FRIENDSHIP

OH, THE COMFORT—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person,
Having neither to weigh thoughts,
Nor measure words—but pouring them
All right out—just as they are—
Chaff and grain together—
Certain that a faithful hand will
Take and sift them—
Keep what is worth keeping—
And with the breath of kindness
Blow the rest away.

Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

Consider friendship with Jesus

- **Have you thought about sitting down with Jesus and:**
 - **Talking with Him, asking Him questions**
 - **Having Him visit when death comes to our family and our hearts are broken**
 - **Having an opportunity to tell and show Him how much you love Him**

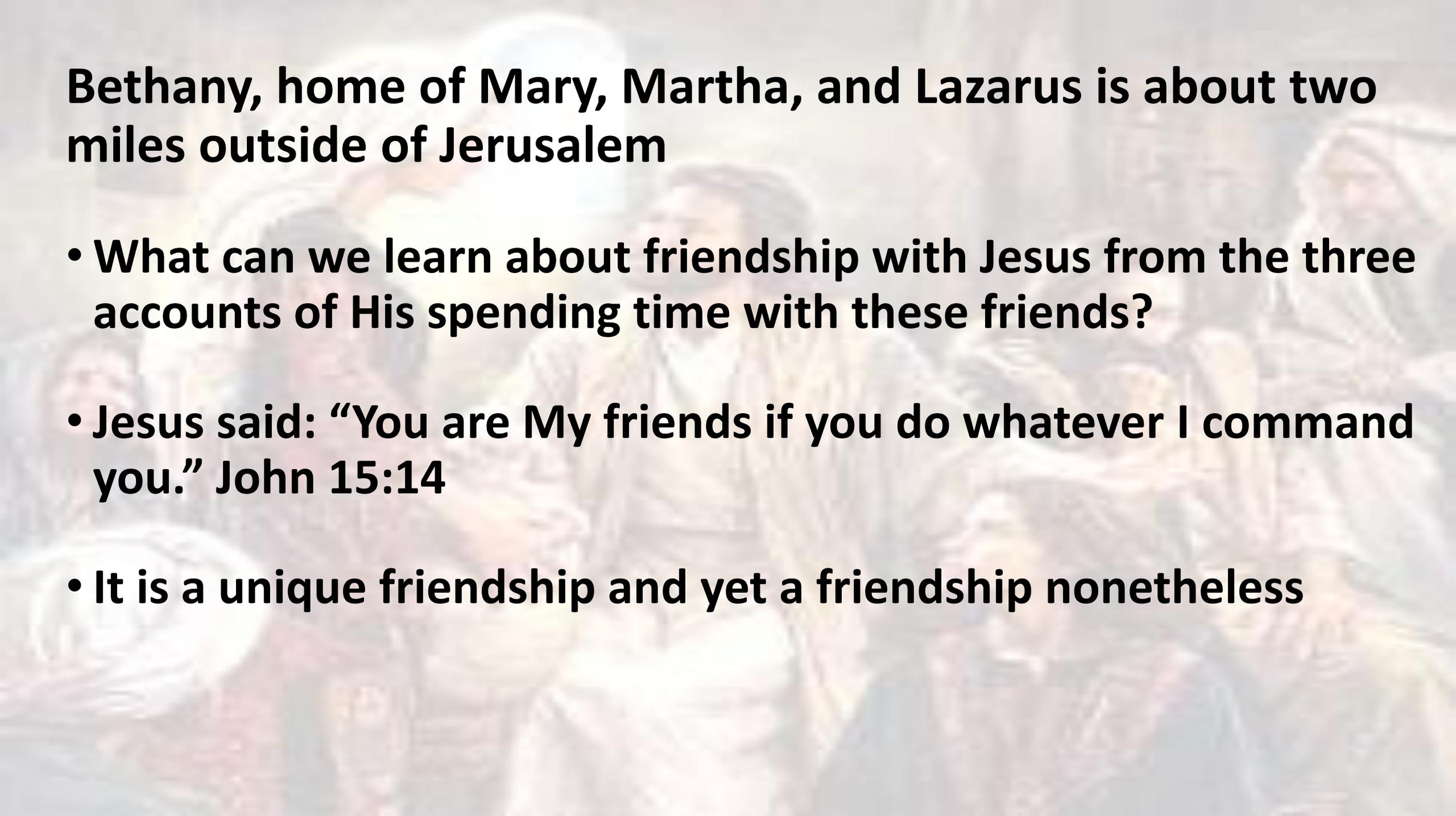


We won't get to do that in this life

- **However, we can study about those who were His close friends while He was here on earth—Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**
- **By far, throughout history, the people who have decided to follow Jesus have not seen Him physically**

“whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.” 1 Peter 1:8, 9

- “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.’” John 20:27-29**



Bethany, home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus is about two miles outside of Jerusalem

- **What can we learn about friendship with Jesus from the three accounts of His spending time with these friends?**
- **Jesus said: “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:14**
- **It is a unique friendship and yet a friendship nonetheless**

Friends around the supper table—mundane times

- **“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:38-42**

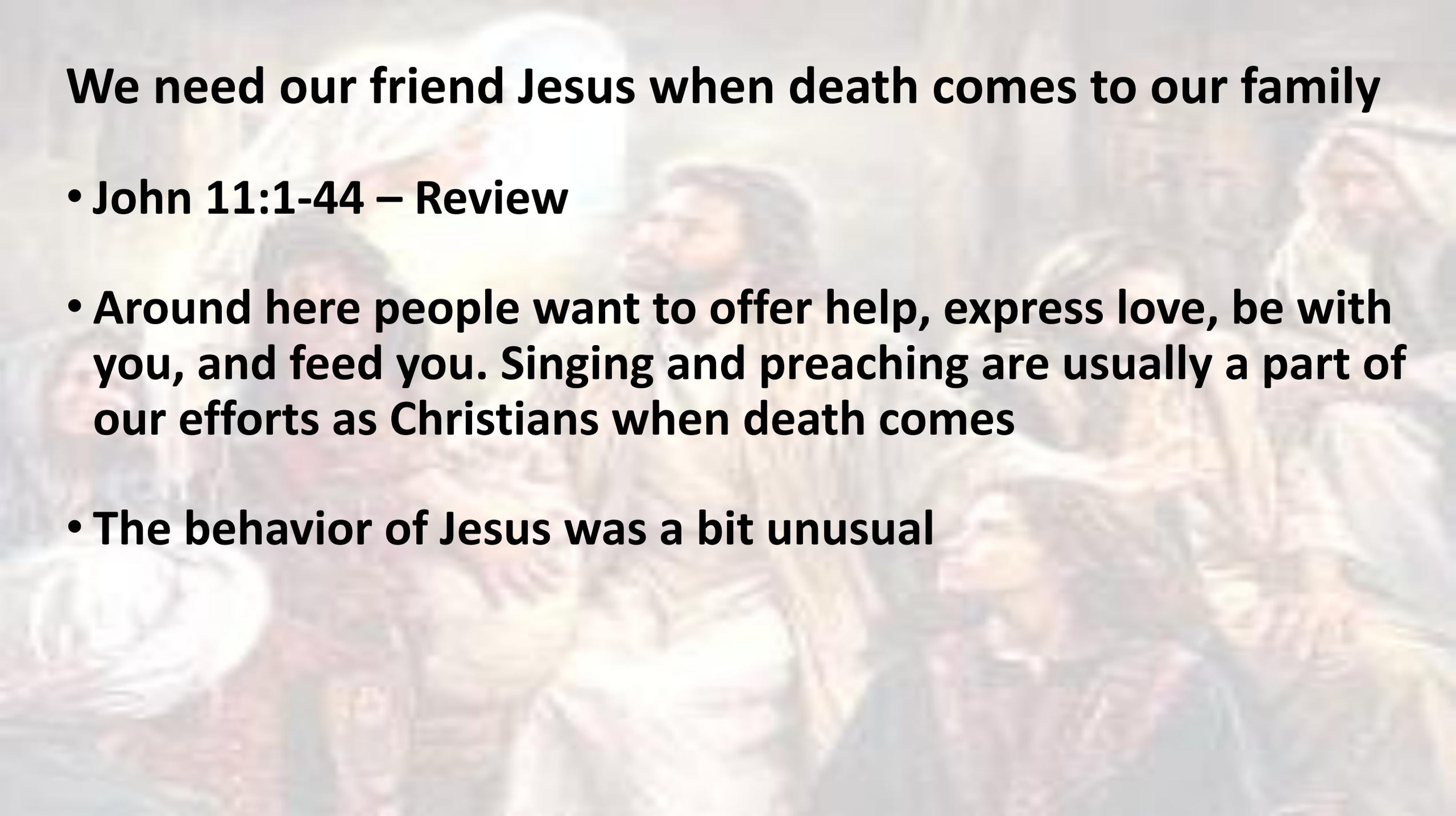
Observations

- **Martha seems to be the older of the two sisters—Luke calls it “her” house**
- **Perhaps these three unmarried siblings lived in the home they inherited from their parents?**
- **Jesus made Himself at home—intimate, instructive, edifying**
- **Questions/answers—wouldn't you?**



Mary sat at His feet and listened; Martha complained that Mary wasn't helping

- **To her credit, Martha wanted to show hospitality to Jesus—opposite to the account in Luke 7:36-50.**
- **Martha was consumed with details and grew irritable with Mary**
- **Lesson: Service is important and necessary, but worship takes us to another level**
- **Jesus, their friend, told them about the “good part”**



We need our friend Jesus when death comes to our family

- **John 11:1-44 – Review**
- **Around here people want to offer help, express love, be with you, and feed you. Singing and preaching are usually a part of our efforts as Christians when death comes**
- **The behavior of Jesus was a bit unusual**

Notice how Jesus deals with Lazarus

- Had Jesus and Lazarus talked about this?
- “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
- What do you suppose Lazarus said to Jesus after he was raised from the dead and they were alone together—why did you bring me back?

Notice how He deals with the sisters

- **“So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.” John 11:6**
- **“Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” Verse 21**
- **“Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.’” Verse 32**

There are things we know, things we do not yet know

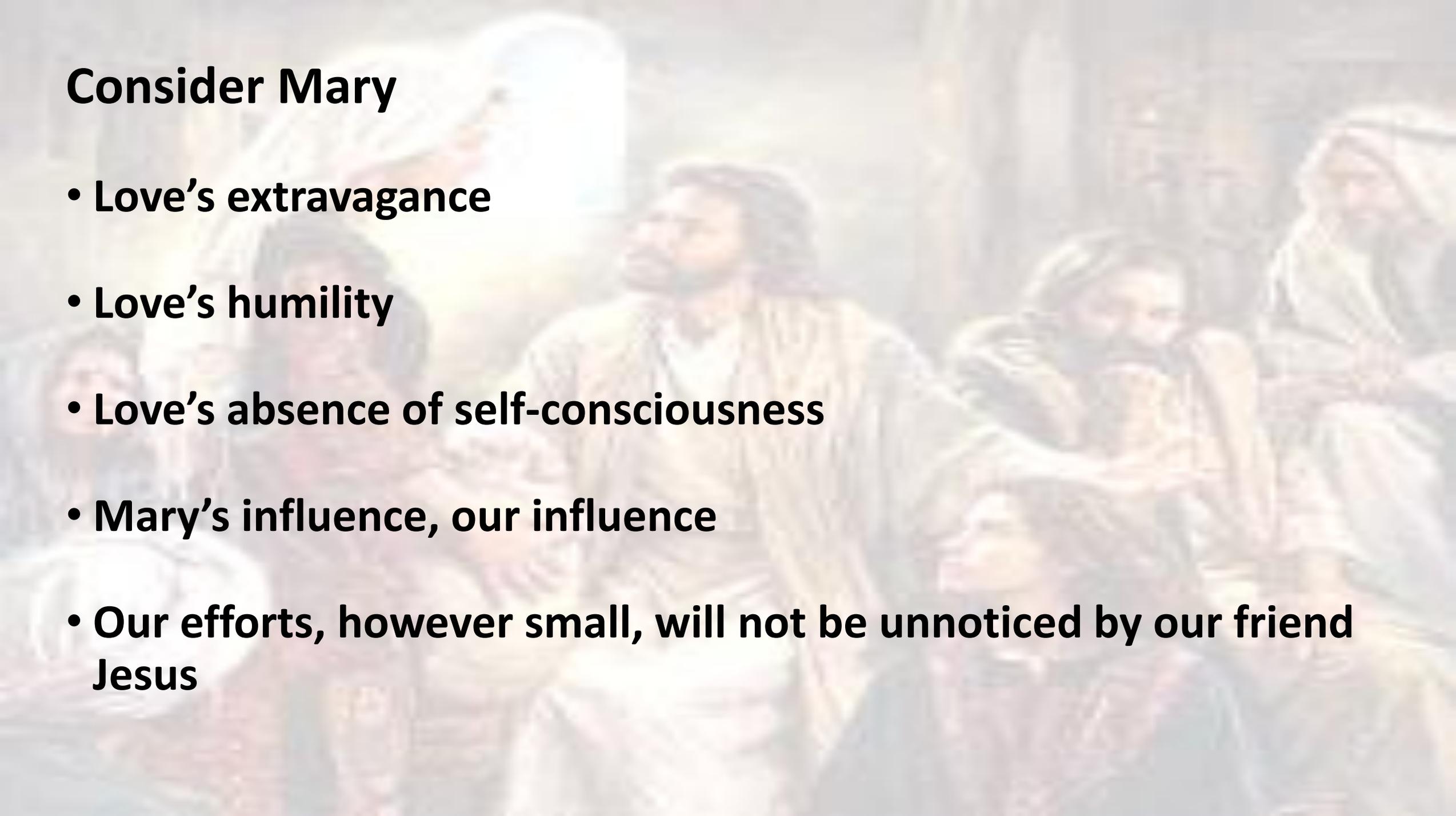
- **Abraham/Sarah/Mount Moriah**
- **“Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’” Verses 23-27**
- **Our need is for absolute trust—**
- **Because we do not know His plans for our future lives doesn’t mean that there are no plans!**

There is a third account of Jesus and those friends

- **“Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s *son*, who would betray Him, said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.’ Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.” John 12:1-9**

Observations

- Much has happened between these visits
- This seems to be a gathering of Jesus' close friends and disciples
- Lazarus was present
- Took place in the house of "Simon the Leper"
- What a remarkable get-together—Martha, serving as usual



Consider Mary

- **Love's extravagance**
- **Love's humility**
- **Love's absence of self-consciousness**
- **Mary's influence, our influence**
- **Our efforts, however small, will not be unnoticed by our friend Jesus**