

## TRUST GOD AND FOLLOW MARY'S EXAMPLE

Isaiah 46:1-13; Mark 14:1-9

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Many people have a lot of questions about God. "Why would a loving God allow this or prevent that..?" "Why doesn't God stop all the suffering and wars?" There is no question as to whether Jesus trusted God the Father for He talked long hours with God and always went to Him for guidance and strength. If Jesus trusted God, then surely Christians can also trust God with their total existence. Also Christians often struggle with how to act, how to live, what to do, etc., concerning Jesus. In Jesus' ministry, there was a person who has set a beautiful example that Christians can follow and that person is Mary.

### I. THE LORD GOD OF CHRISTIANS CAN BE TRUSTED

1. The gods of mankind, idols invented and made by people in no way resemble the God of the Bible, the God that Jesus talked with daily, the God who is the God of Christians.
  - The One who is truly God over all always has His way.
2. From the very beginning it was the purpose of God that His Son be lifted up on a tree and there be crucified as a cursed man for a substitute for all who would believe in Him.
  - Jesus had to be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver, crucified by the Gentiles at the insistence of the Jews, without a single bone being broken, yet having his heart pierced. He must be numbered with transgressors in His death, mocked, beaten, spit upon, and stripped in public humiliation and the soldiers who crucified Him were to cast lots to see which one would get His garment.
  - It all happened exactly as God had planned.
    - Those who thought they would put an end to Jesus' kingdom by killing him were actually doing what God had planned long ago.
    - When they did crucify Jesus, they thought they would make Him a laughing stock, but God used what they did to make the name of JESUS glorious.
    - They thought they would scare the disciples into silence by killing their Jesus, but God used Jesus' death to strengthen the disciples and to send them out into the world with the Gospel, but they did what God had planned.
3. With God being in absolute, total control of all things, one can/should trust Him with/in all things.
  - Living in this world of woe, confusion, war, disease, famine, peril, tossed here and there, one can find everlasting rest in God.
  - All things are of God.
  - All things are ordered by the heavenly Father/God for the believer's good.
  - All things are arranged by God's infinite wisdom and His omnipotent arm, for His glory.
4. The Cross of Jesus Christ is proof that the things of the world are ordered by God's will.
  - God would not allow the wicked to kill His Son WHEN they wanted to, nor the WAY they wanted to or IN THE PLACE they wanted to.
  - God did, however, permit the wicked to kill His Son exactly according to the evil in their hearts.
  - God used their evil hearts to accomplish His purpose of grace in redeeming believers EXACTLY as He had purposed from the very beginning.
    - Acts 2:22-23
    - Acts 4:27-28
    - Acts 13:28-30

- The Christian's God is not a spectator nor a competitor in this world. HE IS THE RULER.
- Salvation comes in knowing Him, the ONLY true and living God revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son, the believer's Savior.
- John 17:3

## II. THE BELIEVER'S EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW IS MARY

1. There is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, there is Mary Magdalene, there is Mary, the mother of Jesus.
  - This Mary of the text was a remarkable woman, modest, unassuming, speaking very little.
2. John 11:32
  - Mary was a woman of great wisdom, devotion and faith, a woman who truly loved the Lord Jesus.
  - Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to every word He said. (Luke 10:39)
  - Mary fell at the feet of Jesus in humble, submissive faith. (John 11:32)
    - She ran to Jesus, fell at His feet and sought comfort in Him in her time of great sorrow.
  - Mary got up early in the morning and hurried to the tomb where Jesus was buried. (Matthew 28:1-9)
    - She was the first one to hear the good news that Jesus had risen.
    - She was the first one to SEE the risen Christ.
    - She was the first one to proclaim (tell others) of Jesus' resurrection.
  - Mary was at Simon's house and broke a box of expensive ointment and anointed Jesus.
  - Jesus said that "Mary" had done a good thing for Him and that she would be well spoken of for a memorial to what she had done.
3. What Mary did could be expected from any believer in Jesus Christ.
  - Mary had been given faith in Jesus Christ.
  - The demons had tormented her and held her captive for years until Jesus drove them from her.
  - Her many sins were all forgiven her.
  - Mary alone seems to have known and understood how the Lord Jesus would accomplish redemption by His death as the Substitute.
  - With all these things in her heart, Mary came to Simon's house to anoint the Lord Jesus in anticipation of His death and resurrection.
4. Mary's loving devotion drew an unexpected negative response from those who saw what she did.
  - She must have been very shocked at what she heard others say about what she had done.
    - Often those who serve the Lord in Mary's manner are often ridiculed and criticized.
  - For her good work, Mary was censured by Judas, the disciples' treasurer.
  - The rest of the disciples joined Judas in condemning what Mary had done with the ointment.
  - Anybody committed to the Lord Jesus Christ out of Love, gratitude, should not expect any approval from the world, the religious hypocrites and even other believers.
  - Everybody BUT JESUS criticized and condemned what she had done, but Jesus approved it and commended Mary and what she had done.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Trust God, no matter what.
2. Mary did what she did for the glory of the Lord Jesus alone.
3. What Mary did was out of pure love for the Lord Jesus.
4. What Mary did required considerable sacrifice and self-denial (it was very expensive what she did).  
- Mary did it all without calling any attention to herself.
5. Children of God, follow Mary's example - do what you can for the Lord Jesus, do it while you can, do it whenever you can and do it wherever you can.
6. ***"...Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God..."***  
***(1 Corinthians 10:31)***