

**Witness to the Christ Week 2**  
**Mary Lazrus' Sister**  
**John 12: 1-11**

Today Mary will help us understand *tokimeku*--Sparks of joy!!!

Mary shows us how to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

**How does Mary do this?**

- **Mary replaces \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Give became an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Give became an act of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Consider the person who is defined by get.**

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**Message Application:**

I was probably seven years old when I heard my first debate about how much a Christian should give to the church. I had sneaked into the office where my father and several other men were counting the church offering.

The debate was over if you should tithe on your gross pay, before taxes, or on your net pay, after taxes.

I can't tell you the details. My memory isn't that good; it was a long time ago. What I do remember was my father. Making the point that the act of giving money every Sunday is a small part of our giving. He said Jesus wants our lives. He wants our all. If we surrender the 100% of who we are and what we have, he will bless us in every way in life. We won't worry about gross or net. We will worry about pleasing Jesus.

I have to confess to you that I am not quoting my dad. I was seven and couldn't comprehend it all but thinking back on what happened, I can say the above comes very close to my father's thought.

So we see that Mary gave witness to Jesus. When she did an outflow came from her heart. She had sat at Jesus' feet and learned from her Rabbi. She had entertained Jesus in her home many times. She had seen the Resurrection and the Life raise her brother from the tomb. Mary must express the love in her heart and she gives a gift of worth, adoration and service that Jesus deserves..

Mary taps into the greatest way to receive from the hand of God Almighty. The great Protestant reformer Martin Luther once said, *"I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess."*

Jesus Christ said it like this, ***"25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."***

As we approach Easter Sunday we need to ask God to change our *getting* into *giving*.

Ask yourself is my life, my very self an offering to the Father? Do I tithe 10% or 100% of myself to Jesus? Really look within. Then pray for the Holy Spirit to help you in your self-giving.

The alternative to giving is getting. Judas was a pro at that type of living. Do you really want to relate to Judas?

Peace & Grace,

Wm. Lyons