



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

LUKE

Luke 10:38-39 (CSB)

38 While they were traveling, he entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

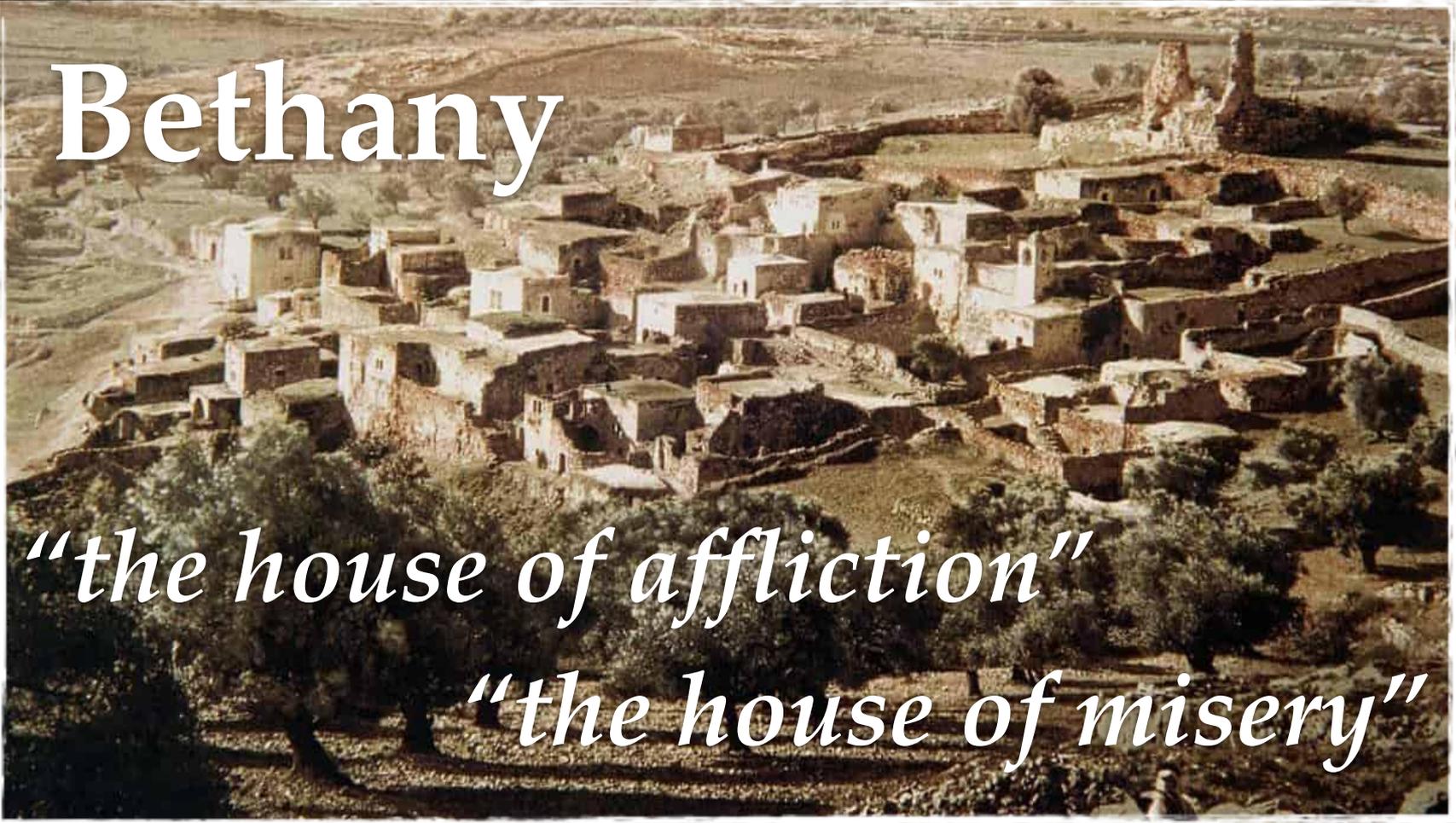
39 She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said.

Luke 10:40 (CSB)

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand.”

Luke 10:41-42 (CSB)

41 The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her.”

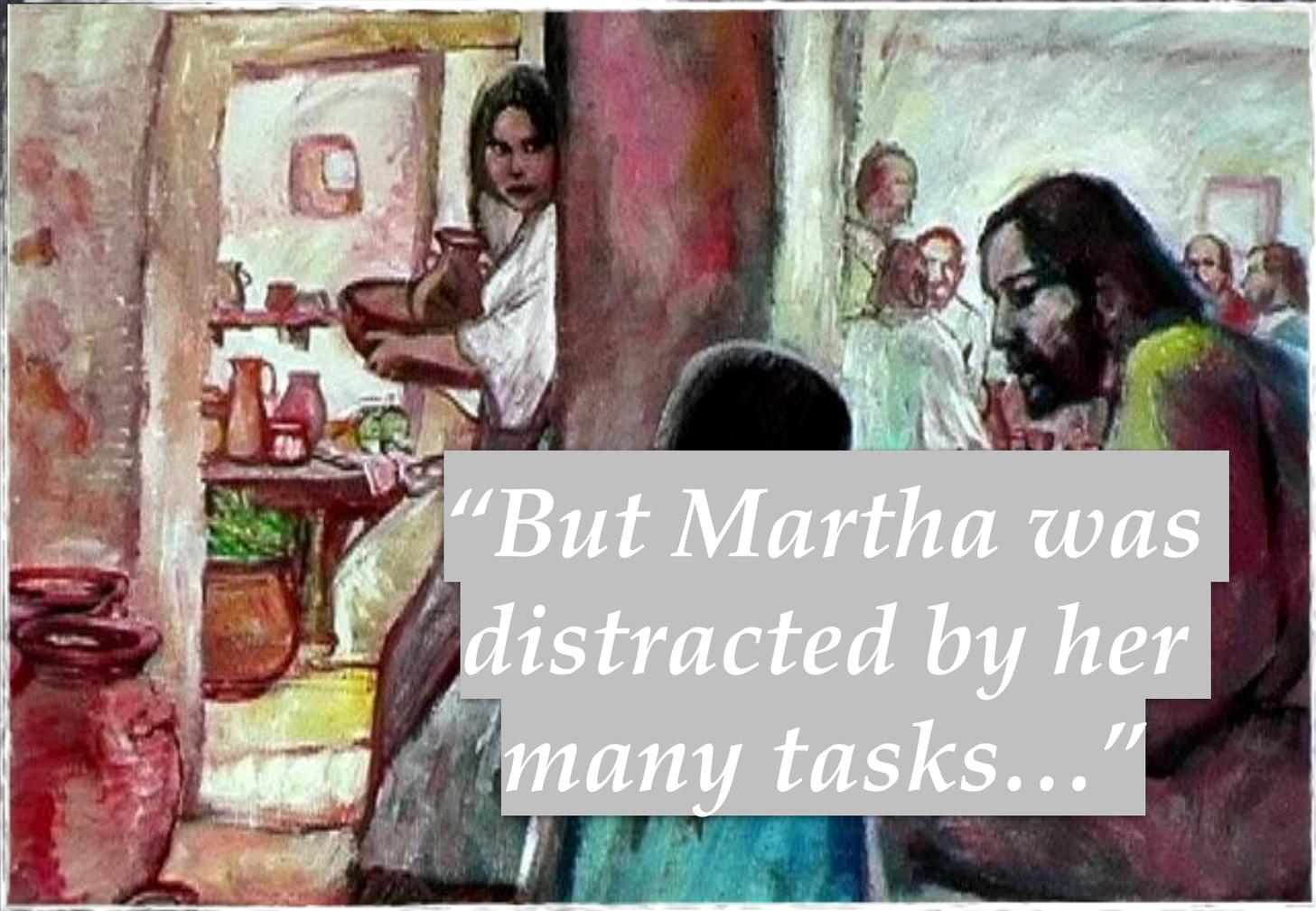


Bethany

“the house of affliction”

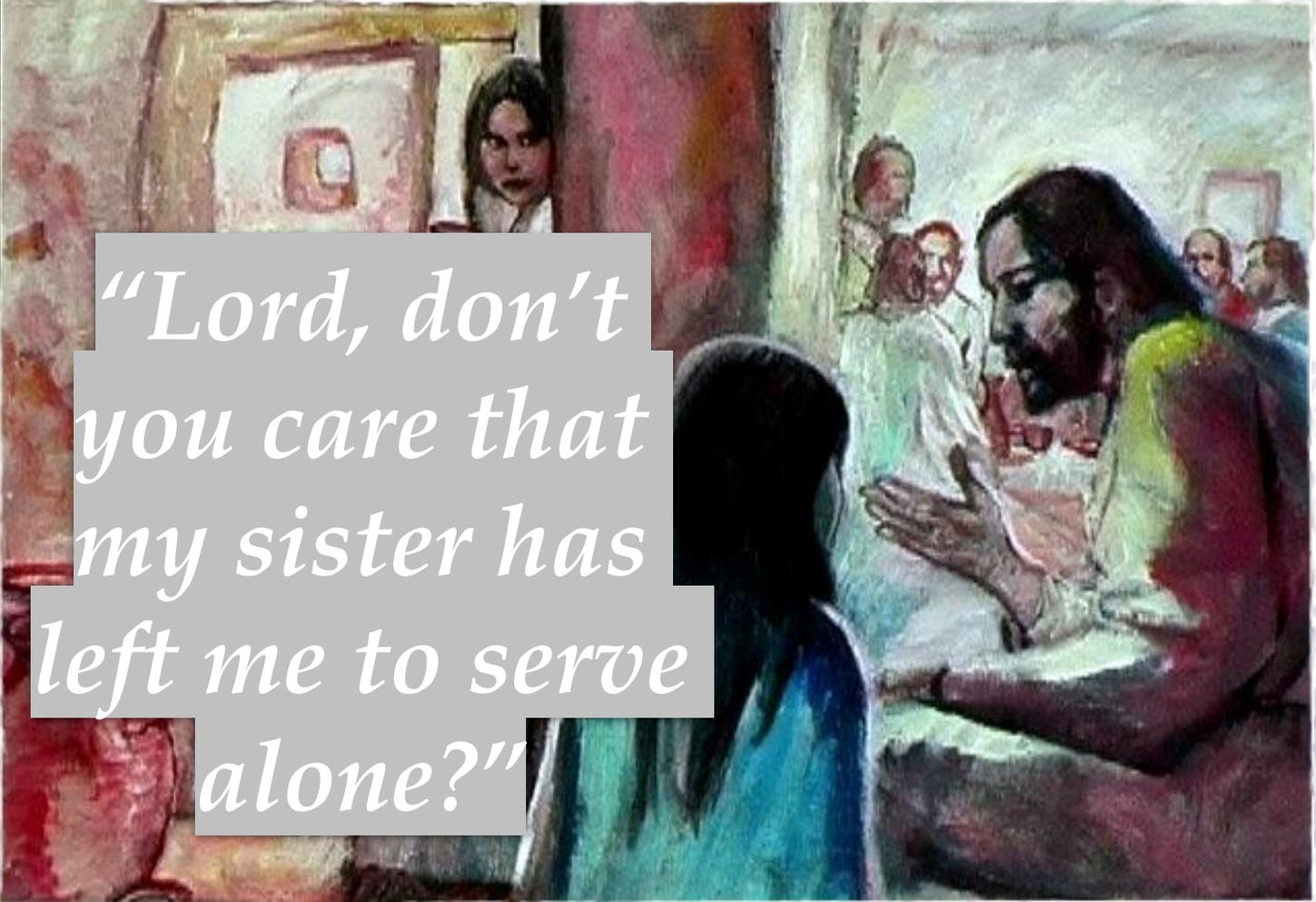
“the house of misery”



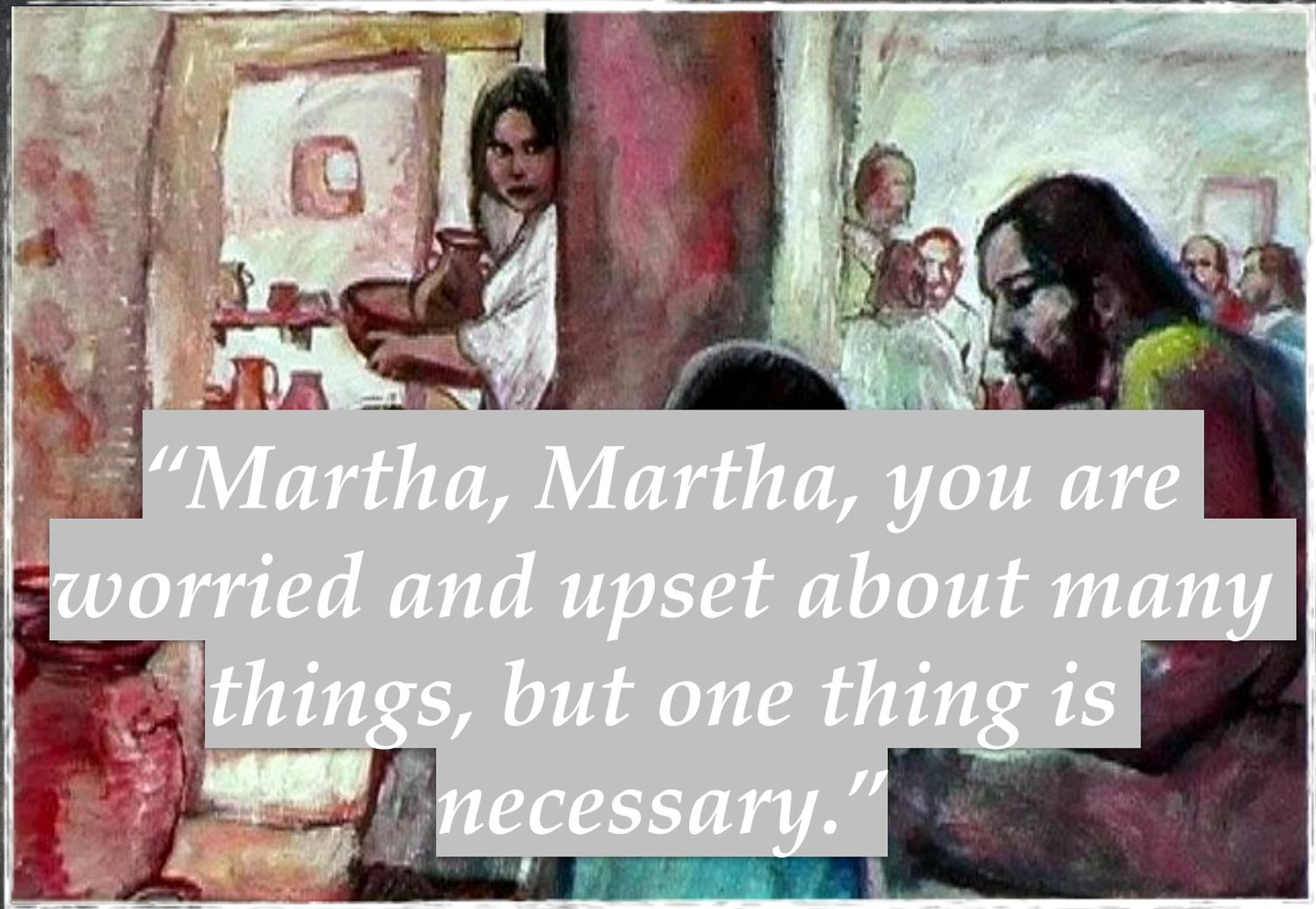


*“But Martha was
distracted by her
many tasks...”*

periespato (Greek): “distracted,”
dragged off, pulled away, turned
from the central point of reference
upon which you should be oriented

A painting depicting a scene with Jesus on the right, looking towards a woman in a blue dress on the left. Jesus has a beard and long hair, and is wearing a white and yellow garment. The woman in the blue dress is seen from the back. In the background, several other people are visible, including a woman in a white dress looking towards the foreground. The painting is set in an interior space with a doorway in the background.

*“Lord, don’t
you care that
my sister has
left me to serve
alone?”*



“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary.”

“LORD, you are my portion and my
cup of blessing. You hold my future...
Indeed I have a beautiful
inheritance.” (Psalm 16:5-6; CSB)

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but
God is the strength of my heart, my
portion forever... For me, God’s
presence is my good.”

(Psalm 73:26, 28; CSB)

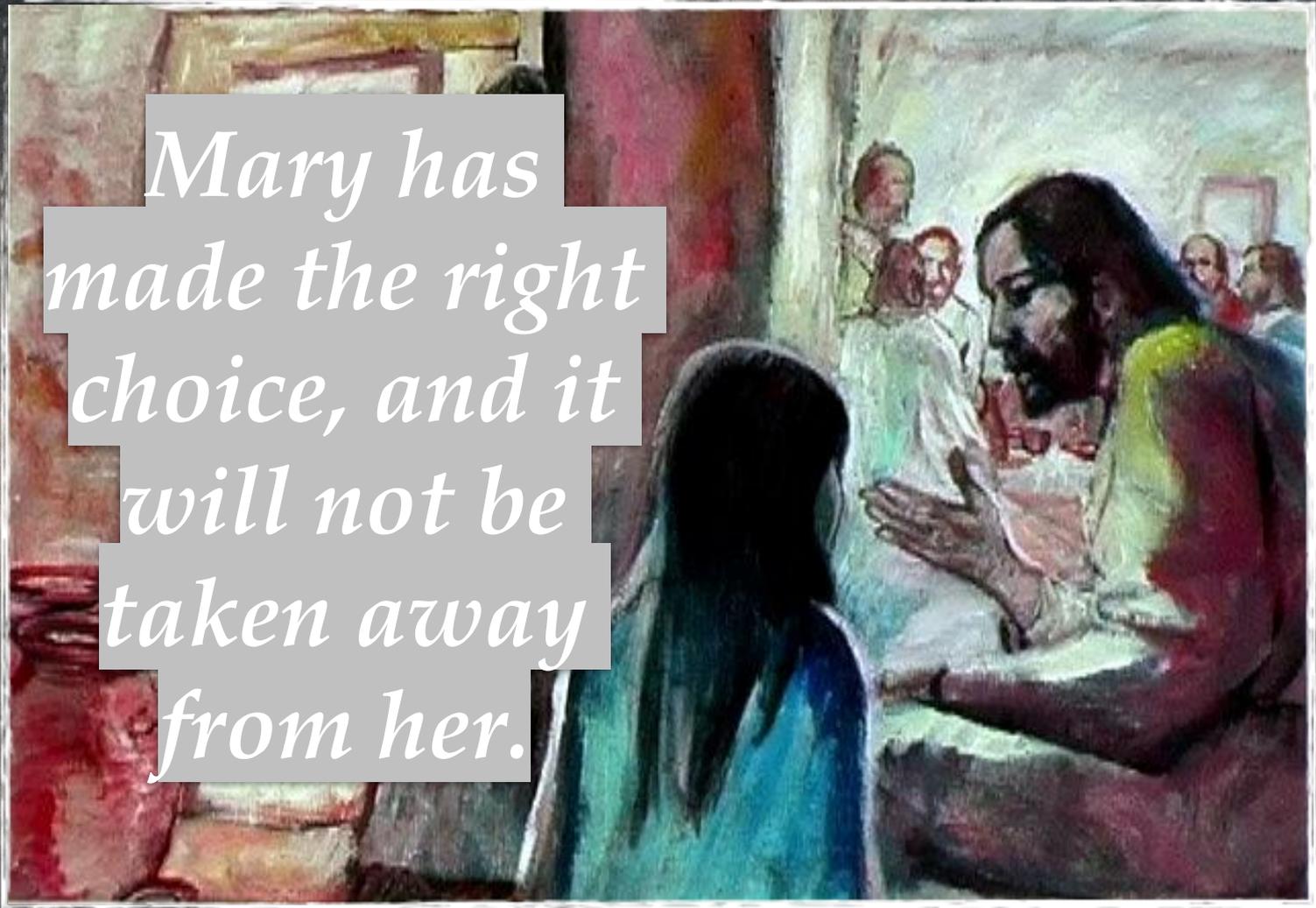
“Grace is not opposed to *effort*; it is opposed to *earning*.” (Dallas Willard)

"Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha was serving them."

(John 12:1-2; CSB)

“She is in danger of getting so bogged down in the details of hospitality that she forgets the point of the whole exercise, which is to enjoy the company of your guest....When the guest is Jesus, however, the mistake assumes cosmic proportions: Martha is in danger of ‘missing the point’ which of all points must not be missed.” (Alexander)

*Mary has
made the right
choice, and it
will not be
taken away
from her.*



“The surviving remnant of the house
of Judah will again take root
downward and bear fruit upward.”

(Isaiah 37:31; CSB)

Intimacy leads to fruitfulness.

With all her competence and internal drive, Martha needed to learn “life in the middle voice.”

- **Active voice** - I am the actor. I initiate the action. (Eg. "I give advice.")

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- **Passive voice** - I am being acted upon. I receive the action. (Eg. "I am given advice.")

- **Middle voice** - I am an active participant, but the action did not begin with me. I am joining the action of another. (Eg. "I take advice.")

“The assumption of spirituality is that always God is doing something before I know it. So the task is not to get God to do something I think needs to be done, but to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond to it and participate and take delight in it.” (Peterson)

