

Presented by Women of Wall Highway



MARY AND MARTHA IN THE KITCHEN



From Ginger's
kitchen to yours



Learn to do this at home



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Practical, fun cooking for everyday life, including devotions to feed your soul

Recipes compliments of Ginger Jordan
Devotions by Julie Greenwalt
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tsp = teaspoon

Tbsp = tablespoon

C = cup

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Devotion

Soups

Potato Cheese Soup

1 frozen bag cubed hash browns
1 medium onion, chopped
1 tsp. Garlic or garlic powder
2+ stalks celery cut in small pieces
Water (enough to cover potatoes, celery and onions)
3 Tbsp oil or butter
3 Tbsp flour
1 quart half and half
8-16 oz cubed Velveeta
Salt/pepper to taste

Sauté onion, celery and garlic in oil or butter until soft. In another pot add hash browns, celery, and onions, and cook until soft. Drain water and set potato mix aside. Melt butter and flour to make a roux. Mix well and add half and half; mix well. Add potato mix, garlic, Velveeta and simmer until thick, stirring continuously. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot.

Variations

Spicy Southwestern Potato Soup: add cayenne pepper, can of Rotel diced tomatoes with green chilies, and chives or chopped green onions to make a spicy southwestern potato soup.

Tomato Bisque Soup

1 onion chopped and sautéed until soft then add:
1 large can petite tomatoes
1 family size can tomato soup
1½ c half and half
¼- ½ tsp each: basil, thyme, pepper (or cayenne pepper)

Cook until mixed well. Serve hot.

Note: The original recipe called for smaller cans of soup and tomatoes. I added larger cans because I prefer the fullness of the soup. If you don't have half and half, use evaporated milk (Pet/Carnation milk).

Chicken Noodle Soup

2-3 c chopped [baked chicken](#)

¼ c butter

1 c chopped onions

1 Tbsp minced garlic (or fresh)

1 c chopped carrots

½ c chopped celery

1 tsp poultry seasoning

½ tsp pepper

1 bay leaf

2 Tbsp lemon juice

1 family size can cream of chicken soup

1 box low-sodium chicken broth

Egg noodles (how much?)

[Sauté](#) veggies in butter until soft. Add cooked chicken and seasonings (poultry seasoning, pepper, bay leaf, lemon juice). Simmer until done (30 min-1 hr).

Variations

Creamier Chicken Noodle Soup: add ½ bag egg noodles or 1-2 cups half and half for creamier chicken soup. Also delicious in bread bowls.

Chicken and Dumplings: Make soup recipe until done, adding frozen/homemade dumplings or gnocchi, or get cans of biscuits and cut a biscuit into 4 pieces and cook in the broth.

FYI: fresh garlic and onions are anti-bacterial and anti-viral. And the chicken broth can help thin secretions. Great to eat when you are sick.

Have you heard the saying, “I’m in the soup now!”? It means I’m in trouble with dire consequences, like maybe I said something offensive or didn’t do what I was supposed to. It might be highly entertaining if you and I sat down to share all the times we got “in the soup.”

But let’s look at soup as a metaphor for our lives in a good context. We’re each a complex soup of experiences, emotions, and relationships that create a unique “flavor.” When God becomes the

Master Chef of our life soup, we're going to notice some differences in the final flavor.

Of all the life-changing encounters with God in the Bible, Martha's is my favorite. Unfortunately, the name Martha most often has a negative connotation because she's most often associated with mixed up priorities; someone cares more about getting things done than listening to Jesus. My own children have called me "Martha" more than once, and it's not a compliment.

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Have you ever "got it wrong?" Publicly? How would **you** like to be identified forever by that single less-than-stellar moment of your life? Besides being chided by the Lord of the universe, Martha's mistake was recorded by Dr. Luke for all time.

Can you imagine how that would feel? After that, it wouldn't have been surprising if Martha believed her life soup had lost its flavor. Next to her sister Mary's devotion to Jesus, Martha's gift of cooking might have suddenly seemed pathetic. If she had disappeared from the biblical narrative completely, we might assume a sad ending to her story. But wait, there's more:

²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." John 11:20-27

After Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus died, who was the first to dart out to meet Jesus? Not to disrespect Mary, but for some reason she remained in the house until Martha came to tell her the Teacher was asking for her.

Then let's notice: When Martha and Mary encountered Jesus separately, both greeted Him using the exact same words: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11: 21 and 32).

But Martha is the one who added, “But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you” (verse 22). We can’t hear her tone, but her words convey:

- **Respect** – for His power and His position as the Son of God
- **Submission** – to His authority and will; she acknowledged that He could call on God but did not insist that He do so
- **Hope** – although the worst had happened (Lazarus had died four days before), the words “even now” convey the hope Martha held

Even as Martha’s heart was breaking with grief, she was **brave** enough to ask Jesus questions, **confident** enough express her belief in His deity, and **submissive** enough to defer to His will.

Finally, it was to Martha that Jesus proclaimed, “*I am the resurrection and the life*” (John 11:25). What a gift! He entrusted her with the information that He held ultimate and absolute power over life and death.

From these clues, it seems that Martha’s life soup was not made up of self-disgust, defeat, and derision. Instead, she seems to have understood that, in spite of her earlier error, she was valued and accepted by “*the Christ, the Son of God*” (John 11:27). Jesus didn’t turn away from her, and He will not turn away from you and me.

We all have those moments—probably more than one!—when we choose “the lesser thing” or even the wrong thing to add to our soup of life. Being reprimanded for those choices just doesn’t taste good. But instead of giving up, we can hear Jesus saying, “Come” and see His open arms no matter what we’ve done.

Here’s the truth: Jesus is in the business of making tasty soup from our lives.