

JESUS AND HIS BETHANY FRIENDS

It is helpful to understand that Bethany (the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus) was on the other slope of the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem - a couple of miles away. Bethlehem (Jesus' birthplace) is further to the south.

Bethany was also the home of Simon the leper (Mark 14:3), as well as some of Jesus' closest friends - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John). They were siblings, and because of the proximity of their village to Jerusalem, it appears Jesus spent His visits to Jerusalem in the homes of His friends.

There appeared to have been a leper colony here (unclean for the environs of the great city Jerusalem). Jesus chose to visit Bethany often, rather than to seek shelter close to or within Jerusalem. Visits are reported often in the Gospels, along with the company of His closest followers.

Here is something really cool - it appears that Bethany, the very place Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, was the launch point for His resurrection! Check it out in Luke 24:50-51.

Lay of the land:



The modern city:

