

Judge Rudy and the Case of Martha v. Mary

The Cast: Judge Rudy; Bailiff; Martha; Mary; three jurors

The Props: Black robe or dress; white wig; gavel; podium or table (for judge); seven chairs; two tables (plaintiff and defendant); seven character nametags made from posterboard with a string attached to hang around the characters' necks; a large Bible

The courtroom scene is set with two tables, one for the plaintiff and one for the defendant, and a podium (or another table) for the judge. Jurors are sitting in a row at the side. Each character is wearing a large name card around his or her neck. Everyone except the judge (who is offstage) is sitting down. Judge Rudy is wearing a wig and a big black robe or dress and carrying a gavel.

Bailiff: *(Stands up.)* All rise for the Honorable Judge Rudy.

Judge: *(Enters and takes the bench.)* Be seated. Let's see. What have we got on the docket today?

Bailiff: Martha v. Mary, your Honor.

Judge: What's the complaint?

Bailiff: Martha is suing for damages due to her sister's laziness and lack of help at a dinner party they hosted.

Judge: Martha, you may take the stand.

Bailiff: *(Holding large Bible.)* Raise your right hand and place your left hand on the Bible. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Martha: *(Raising her hand)* I do.

Judge: You may begin.

Martha: Well, Your Honor, the other night my sister and I decided to have a friend over for dinner. When He arrived, there were still plenty of things that needed to be finished. The salad wasn't made, I had a roast in the oven that needed to be basted every five minutes, the table wasn't set, and drinks needed to be served. But instead of helping me take care of all these things, she *(pointing at Mary)* went and sat with our guest and completely ignored my pleas for help. I finally couldn't take it anymore and practically had a nervous breakdown. I am still suffering with headaches every time I think about it *(whining as she takes hold of her aching head)*.

Judge: Thank you, Martha, you may be seated. *(Martha returns to the plaintiff's table.)* Those are serious charges. Mary, please take the stand. *(Waits for Mary to take the witness stand.)*

Bailiff: *(Holding large Bible.)* Raise your right hand and place your left hand on the Bible. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mary: I do.

Judge: How do you plead?

Mary: Well, Your Honor, I suppose I'm *(pause)* . . . guilty.

Jury: *(Looking shocked, gasping and talking amongst themselves)* Oh my . . . what did she say? . . . can you believe it?

Judge: You are pleading guilty to these charges?

Mary: Well, yes . . . but I do have an explanation.

Judge: This had better be a good one!

Mary: Your Honor, our guest wasn't just any old guest; it was Jesus. The way I look at it is: How can you spend too much time with the Son of God? Isn't He really more important than whether we had salad or if the roast has been basted every five minutes? He is my Savior and my Lord, and He is my priority. Everything else is second to Him. My sister must understand that Jesus deserves our attention even if we think we are too busy.

Judge: Jesus was your dinner guest, huh? That guy sure gets a lot of free meals. *(Clears throat.)* Anyway, under the circumstances, I see why you did not worry about the details that concerned your sister. Case dismissed! *(Hits gavel.)*