

# SUNDAY: 18 July 2010

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

1<sup>st</sup> reading: **Genesis 18:1-10**

Psalm **Psalm 15:2-5**

2nd reading: **Colossians 1:24-28**

**Gospel reading: Luke 10:38-42**

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**Scripture: Luke 10:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> In the course of their journey he came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. <sup>40</sup> Now Martha, who was distracted with all the serving, came to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered, 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, <sup>42</sup> and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.'

### **Meditation:**

What a classic example of how closeness with God trumps religious activity! We all can see how Martha was focused on doing things for Jesus: cooking, cleaning, and making Jesus comfortable. Obviously, she couldn't see that Jesus cared more about sharing a conversation than sharing a perfect meal.

But didn't James tell us that anyone who listens to the word of God and doesn't do what it says is like someone who gazes into a mirror and then immediately forgets what he looks like (James 1:22-24)? Perhaps Martha was onto something after all. Yes, she was a bit too preoccupied with the demands of hospitality, but maybe she was just trying her best to be a doer of the word and not just a hearer. Maybe she understood that you can't have real communion with God without service.

This message certainly applies to our relationship with God, but it also applies to our relationships with one another. Scripture tells us to "serve one another through love" (Gal 5:13), to "strive for peace with everyone" (Heb 12:14), and to use our God-given gifts to take care of each other (1 Pet 4:10). We didn't grow in love for each other simply by talking, after all. We grow by doing things for each other!

Jesus didn't rebuke Martha for being a servant. That would contradict so much of his teaching-and so much of his own example. No, he wanted her to see that she had allowed anxiety and stress to control her more than simplicity and love. He wanted her to see that she lost her temper because she had lost her perspective.

Jesus wants to speak to us just as he spoke to Martha. He wants to invite us to sit with him and receive his abundant love. At the same time, he wants to give us energy for the work he's called us to. May we all eat the Bread of Life and then go out and give away what God has given us! Listen before doing or you might end up doing what Jesus is not asking of us.

### **Question for Community Faith Sharing:**

1. How do we answer Jesus' call to lead our life as a full disciple of Christ?
2. How much do we understand God's will? Do we sit down, listen and obey Him or we try to understand it through our logical common sense instead?
3. In doing our daily duties, be it in workplace, house or church, do we always take time to reflect on our focus? Has the task oriented us away from the needs of our brothers and sisters around us?

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*Prayer:*

*"Lord, to be in your presence is life and joy for me. Free me from needless concerns and preoccupations that I may give you my undivided love and attention."*