

Martha and Mary

6th Sunday after Pentecost - Year C - 07/21/2019

Psalm Reading: 34 (non-Lectionary)

1st Reading: Luke 10:38-42, 2nd: Col. 1:15-20

It is important to spend your life in a way that will fully engage your heart. That means that we must have priorities ... What are your priorities in this life? In our Gospel reading from Luke...

Jesus on his way to Jerusalem (v.38)

How Jesus travels

Where he might stop

Ends up stopping at the home of Martha.

Who is Martha?

Must be relatively wealthy

Own property. Not completely unusual

(Lydia in Philippi)

Sister of Lazarus

Also, has a sister named Mary. (v.39)

Who is Mary?

Known to be one who anoints Jesus with oil

Sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Disciple! Defying conventions of the day.

All Souls important.

Both sisters defying conventions.

But both sisters at odds. (v.40)

Martha Busy with guests

Making food, cleaning up, getting together bedding.

Probably feeling pretty frazzled.

Sees Mary sitting down at the feet of Jesus.

Getting a bit put out!

Martha goes to Jesus, a bit boldly...

“Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself!”

Feeling a bit sorry for herself.

Self-righteous

Jesus replies. *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things...”* (v.41)

Sounds like Jesus is talking to you and me.

Work, pay the bills, house guests,

Not just work and responsibilities.

What we buy.

Theory of the more we spend on something then the more time we spend with it. The more we value it.

Jesus continues, *“but few things are needed.”*

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.

Jesus says there is only one thing needed.

If we had to narrow it down to just one thing what would that be?

Jesus...Relationship

What makes Jesus so special?

Our reading from Colossians clues us in.

Image of God

In him, through him, for him, all things created.

Before all things.

Highest priority

Where you spend your time is where your heart is.

So, we have Christ as the highest priority. It is obvious that given the chance, any one of us would avail ourselves of the opportunity to sit at the feet of the master.

But we cannot ignore the material world, we do so at our peril. If we do not work to put food on the table and a roof over our heads we will die of exposure or starvation or both.

Remember, as Paul tells us in his letter to the Colossians, all things are made in and through Christ. That means even the material things of the world are in a sense holy. Not that we should worship them, but that we should thank God for them and appreciate them for what they are, as a means of sustenance and perhaps even as a means of connecting us to God.

We need to balance our time, balance our activities. As we can read in Chapter 3 of the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament, there is “a time to every purpose under heaven.” (KJV, Ecc 3:1) So, there are times to work, times to play, times to study the Word, times to Worship God. It is important for us to know when to do these things. (Maybe that is why God set aside Sundays as a day of rest.)

Paul writes: *Through Jesus, God “reconciles to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”* (NIV, Col 1:20)

So no matter what we do, or who we do it with, we should be aware: every activity is done, in one way or another, in the context of our relationship with Christ and Christ’s love for us. In making our choices in this life, we cannot go far wrong, if we

keep in mind the sacrifice Christ made for us, and if we first take the time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

ἀμήν