



Daily Reflections

October 9, 2018

Scripture

Luke 10: 38-42

Jesus entered a village
where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.
She had a sister named Mary
who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.
Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said,
"Lord, do you not care
that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving?
Tell her to help me."
The Lord said to her in reply,
"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.
There is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part
and it will not be taken from her."

Our Scripture Reflection

For centuries people have enjoyed today's Gospel text as they speculated playfully on the question, "Who was right and who was wrong, Martha the worker or Mary the sitter?" Actually, that kind of speculation is irrelevant with regard to the message of this wonderful story. How, then, are we to understand this Scripture text?

1. In 9: 51 we read that Jesus "set His face to Jerusalem." This passage reveals the mindset and mood of Our Lord.

He is resolute and determined about His Journey to the city of His destiny. There is a sense of urgency. Why? because He came to give His life for us and nothing could deter Him.

2. Time was limited. There was none to waste. Jesus praises Mary's posture of sitting and listening because she has at this moment, "chosen the better part."

3. Of course the details of hospitality were important. But AT THIS MOMENT, listening to Jesus while He was physically present was most important of all.

Food for your Journey

Jill Harness, in her article "4 Famous Sets of Sisters Who Changed History," tells about the Graeae, the Trung sisters, the Podgorski sisters and the Grimke sisters. Here is what she says about these latter sis-lings: The Grimke Sisters were some of the first women to publicly act in American social reform movements. While many revolutionaries were raised by progressive parents who taught them to question the way things are, Angelina and Sarah Grimke were the opposite. Their father, the chief judge of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, was a strong proponent both of slavery and of the subordination of women.

The girls were raised on a massive plantation, where they saw the worst parts of slavery on a regular basis. When Sarah was only five, she tried to run away so she could escape somewhere without slavery. She later taught her personal slave to read, although this was against the law at the time.

Sarah was a bright girl who studied constantly and wanted to become a lawyer. Unfortunately, when her parents learned that she wanted to attend college, they forbade her to study any more. Since she could no longer continue her education, Sarah begged to become godmother to her youngest sister Angelina. From that point on, the two were extremely close. ... They became the first women to address the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1838. Their appearance caused a scandal, but inspired a number of young women to follow them. Eventually, they attracted thousands of women in New England to join the abolitionist movement, and thousands of men and

women would travel from miles around to see the girls give public speeches.

...

After years of support for the abolitionist and feminist movements, the girls lived long enough to see the slaves freed and to see the 15th Amendment passed.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me to learn from Mary who chose to focus on You and to listen and learn from You. May I grow in my ability to put what I learn into practice each day. Amen