

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C – 2019
Gen. 18.1-10///Col.1.24-28///Luke 10.38-42

→this past week we surpassed the ½ way point of the summer and it is hard to believe how fast the time is going...what used to seem like a slow time of year appears to be moving way too quickly these days....

→and it seems like it never slows down anymore...our work and the activities of life never seem to diminish...there is always something that needs to be done....and what's worse is that it seems as if the longer we live...the busier we seem to be...

→in fact do you know what is becoming the number one...most frequent...and most commonly used 3 words spoken these days among people...if you think its "I love you" you would be wrong...the three most commonly used words these day are "I'm too busy."

→someone once gave me a printed card that lists 3 pieces of advice that serves as reminder to me when I find myself drowning in a sea of busyness.....

It states:

--We can sometimes get so involved in what we are doing...that we forget why we are doing it

-secondly..... We sometimes get so involved in what needs to be done.... that we forget the purpose of life.

And thirdly...we sometimes can get so involved in pursuing the things money can buy that we forget about the things money *can't* buy....

→and it is this kind of mistake [as we hear] that Martha makes in today's gospel...she got so involved in cooking a meal for Jesus that she forgets why Jesus was visiting

PAUSE

→today's gospel is about Martha and Mary.....but the real message of this story is about choosing priorities, about focusing and concentrating on the important things and letting go of our dissatisfactions and fears.....

Today Jesus and his disciples come to the home of Martha and Mary, and there, they entertain him

...and with all this entertaining comes [all the things you might expect] feeding people, cleaning the house, taking care of everyone...and while all this is happening-----Mary is sitting there listening to Jesus

→Martha, o.t.o.h. reacts as anyone would by saying.... "I am working as hard as I can, and Mary is doing nothing...tell her to help me!"

--a remark that I am sure, many think is justifiable,...because 30 years ago...if Jesus had announced that he was coming to our parent's home do you know what our mothers would have done...

→they would have mobilized the kids...days ahead of time... to clean the house, run to the grocery store, go to the bakery...and spruce up the yard....

→in short they would have been just like Martha....

→but Jesus responds.....by saying... "Martha...poor Martha....you are anxious and upset about many things; but one thing ONLY is required...and Mary has chosen the better portion and she shall not be deprived of it."

i.o.w. what Jesus is saying is that, ...“understanding his words and listening to his teaching and living his message is what truly matters...it’s the most important thing anyone can do”and that is what J. is telling you and me today

PAUSE

→last week, Jesus illustrated the two great commandments ---love of God and love of neighbor w/story of the Good Samaritan

→today’s gospel continues that illustration about what it means to love God

→it means [basically] opening our heart to God’s word...and Mary just does that by listening to Jesus-----

→you and I, likewise need to do the same...to establish priorities in our lives that are based on our faith and our relationship to Christ and not solely about our desires and wants

PAUSE

→the words of Jesus today call us to establish our priorities

→priorities with regards to ourselves, our family, our world and our faith

→.—to ask some very hard and difficult questions like.....

→is my family a priority in my life

→do I have concern for the resources of the world I have been given

→is my faith, and relationship to God what it should be?

PAUSE

→because we are well aware of the various situations that face us today

→family life continues to rapidly deteriorate right before our very eyes

→our world’s resources continue to be misused and abused

→and faith in God, a relationship with God, and the practice of any type of faith among many people today is practically non-existent....and for a good many others...it is something paid attention to only when it is convenient, or there is a crisis, or something is needed..

PAUSE

→in today's gospel, Martha is more concerned about dusting rather than understanding the message of Christ...and Jesus...straightforwardly tells her to get her priorities in line
...and maybe that is the same message for us as well,

→have we also become more concerned about dusting rather than with what really matters when it comes to ourselves, our world and our Church?

→the bottom line is...that we all have a little bit of Martha in each of us.....and sadly our world...our society...and most people today seem to be more in tune with Martha instead of Mary

→and so perhaps, this is a call for us to reassess our lives....to reassess our priorities, to look at where we are going and where we are at in this life...

....and to maybe become more like Mary

→we too can choose the better portion if we want to....because just like Mary, we shall not be deprived of it

→especially if we truly want it...if we truly desire it....if we truly live it

→but that means...first and foremost.....getting our priorities in line and living our lives and faith..... in the way they were meant to be