

Dear Brothers and Sisters



The sisters in today's Gospel represent two forms of religiosity: Martha, who wants to please the Lord; and Mary, with whom the Lord is pleased.

The first frets about everything she has to do, the second allows the Lord to do things for her. One is the religion of the law, the second the Gospel of love. If we do not first experience the love of Christ, our 'doing' will always be similar to that of the Martha, the Scribes and Pharisees.

Just as Christ enters the house of these two sisters, he wants to enter our house today, we can receive him like Martha or Mary. For Martha the Lord's presence is a burden, it wears her out, it is bothersome, it's a lot of work. For Mary his presence is joy.

Christ enters our house every day, thru our marriage, with our children, while at work, or in our priesthood. He enters our house in the daily events of our lives.

Our lives can be frenetic, with never enough hours in the day to get everything done, or they can be experiences of the presence of the Lord speaking to us.

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to him. She epitomizes the first and greatest Commandment: "Listen, O Israel..."

Our true vocation is found not in doing many things, but in listening to the voice of the Lord.

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Jesus is able to fulfill his mission because he listens to the Father. He spends time, sometimes whole nights, listening to what the Father is saying.

God speaks to us constantly, but only the one who has an open ear is able to hear him.

Who is my mother, my brother, my sister? Jesus asks. The one who listens to my word and keeps it.

If you find yourself running ragged today, if you have lost your peace, if the kids are driving you crazy, or others are annoying you...leave Martha behind and go to Mary.

Enter into your inner room, your soul, and listen to the voice of the Lord. As soon as you hear him the waters will subside: those around you will no longer be bothersome, and you will be able to do all you need to do in peace. Try it!

Fr. Sean