

## **16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

In our readings, we see this gift of Hospitality being shown by Abraham and Martha in the gospel. What was interesting was Abraham's zealous spirit of hospitality in welcoming this strange people. In the readings, it says that it was in the middle of the day when the Sun was high up. Abraham was sitting at the entrance of the tent. However, when the Lord appeared to him, Abraham rushed out into the Hot Sun and greeted them. He was able to realize the presence of God visiting because he was sitting down and waiting. If he had been doing something else, he would have missed this opportunity. Because of his hospitality to God, he was blessed by God with what he longed for the most. An heir, a son.

In our gospel today, we hear of two sisters. Martha and Mary. Martha according to the reading must be the head of the household and that is why she is so busy working hard so that everything will be perfect because the Lord is visiting them. Martha started to feel hurt to see that Mary is sitting down and not helping her. Mary was sitting among the men where Jesus was and in their culture at that time, Mary was at the wrong place. However, Jesus said that Mary has chosen the better part. Most times may think that what Mary was doing was more important than what Martha was doing. The actions of these two women represent two ways of living our Faith. One a more practical way of interacting with people and proclaiming God's Kingdom in our lives, and another a contemplative one, finding time to sit with the Lord. Both are important but one comes first than the other.

In the gospel, Jesus said that Martha was anxious and worried about many things that she was missing on being in the Presence of her guest, Christ the Lord. She had it the wrong way. Jesus was saying that

she need to come and seat with him and draw the grace and strength from him before going out there and living out what she has received from the Lord in her work of service. Like the analogy of the Horse and the cart, Martha had the cart in front with the horse at the back.

Today to, like Martha there is so many distractions that can hinder our time to be nourished by God. This thing can be important things like our job, family or friends summer cook outs and parties, our family commitments, birthday parties and other important things. And so when it comes to our time with the Lord in our personal prayers or Sunday Mass, most of us are just tired and worn out.

It makes us feel like Martha who was working the whole time and told that what she was doing is not enough, she needs to do more. To go and seat at the foot of the Lord. For our case, after working hard and all the distractions of life we find it hard to spare a moment with the Lord in prayer or to come again to Mass. Like Martha, through the business of life; or through our loving service to our neighbors and works of mercy and service to people, we feel we are doing something for the Lord. When in actual fact the Lord wants to something with us. To spend time with us so He can nourish and teach us.

By spending time with him can we be nourished to go out there in the world and do what is needed to be done in life joyfully. In this way, our suffering and our struggles in life will not be too burdensome. As St. Paul say's in the second reading, our suffering will be joyful because we are doing it with the Lord.

Let us pray that we may not be distracted and have the patience to seat and spend time with the Lord. And allowing God to dwell in our hearts can we go out and find him and serve and love him in the presence of God in each other.