

Z K F X T A T I E S
 U Y O X A B W D G V
 F B C X M U J X A P
 K Q E R O Z C G L A
 A N X I O U S I L R
 D E M O C L E W I T
 W N M Y L J Q H V G
 M O A R O M R A N S
 C T R P E Z G I I U
 N G T R N T V S M S
 Y F H J I R T E D E
 T D A M E E U E L J
 L V E S R K D I B T
 N E D N N E S J Z A
 Z B F A E T C O X S
 B Z M T E D A L T L
 I O P N M A R Y G L
 W Z I B U G R U D R
 S N E S O H C H B F
 G Q I C B O K R D C

ANXIOUS	MARY
BETTER	PART
BURDENED	SERVING
CHOSEN	SISTER
JESUS	VILLAGE
LEFT	WELCOMED
LISTENING	WOMAN
MARTHA	

Catechizing Corner!

Barbara Reid asserts that "women are beneficiaries of Jesus' ministry and engage in charitable works, but are seen to have 'chosen the better part' when they remain silent and receptive." While women do participate in the ministry in Luke, they do not participate in the mission of Jesus the same way that the men disciples do. If we are looking to Luke's narrative to show that women and men shared equally in Jesus' mission in the first century, we will be disappointed. Reid cautions that we are not to view the scriptures from a position of female dominance, but rather as women and men committed to furthering the dignity of men and women equally. She suggests that a primary theme throughout scripture is the radical option for the poor, oppressed, and powerless. Thus, she cautions us to read the scripture from a "hermeneutic of suspicion." That is, we are to read the stories aware of the cultural biases of a patriarchal society and patriarchal authors. While not ignoring the fact that the bible is the inspired word of God, the authors were nevertheless limited human beings who set forth the word of God.

Thus, one way to approach Luke's interpretation of the story is to remember how John portrayed Martha (with strength and authority) and how subsequent generations portrayed her. The artist, Fra Angelico (1387-1455) pictured Martha and Mary at Gethsemane. The disciples are asleep, Mary is reading a book and Martha is imitating the posture of Jesus whose hands are uplifted in prayer. Another picture has Martha at the foot of the cross with Veronica. Master Eckhart (ca. 1260-1327), a Dominican monk and mystic, preached that Martha had already attained the balance between action and contemplation. He further suggested that Mary was a novice in the contemplative life and that Martha's complaint had more to do with a warning to Mary that she not "get stuck in the tranquil resting, indifferent to the needs around her."

From a traditional, theological point of view, the text upholds the value that the greatest action one can engage in is to love the Lord with one's mind, heart, soul, body, and spirit. All else is rubbish in comparison to that goal. In Jesus' presence, the one thing required was to listen and hear the word. Service that is not rooted in the word of God will not last.

Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook, Cycle C, Paulist Press, 1998



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Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

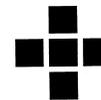
**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary
 Time
 7/20/2025**

A Call to Prayer

**The Word of God
 Luke 10:38-42**

**Faith Sharing
 Questions of the week**

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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

Gospel Glossary

Burdened means overworked and tired.

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."
The Gospel of the Lord.



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: Martha was accustomed to the traditional role for women. Mary wanted to sit with Jesus and learn. Where would you like to be if Jesus was in your home?

Teens: How could you be more welcoming to others into your circle of friends.

Children: Have you ever been upset with your sibling for not doing their chores?

Families: What are the boundaries in your family? For the most part, are these boundaries good?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time