

Sunday, July 17, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:38-42

*Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow,
it empties today of its strength. —Corrie ten Boom*

Today's gospel reading tells the familiar story of Mary and Martha entertaining Jesus when he happened to stop by for a visit at their home in Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem. The two women were sisters, and Martha was probably the older of the two. She was a very responsible person with a strong sense of duty and a vigorous work ethic. Mary, however, was more inclined toward the intellectual life than the practical life of pots and pans. She was a "people" person, interested in stories and ideas.

So, while Martha prepared a meal in the kitchen, Mary hung out with Jesus in the parlor. But Martha wouldn't have it. "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me" (v. 40). But Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are *worried and distracted* by many things" (v. 41, emphasis added).

Worried and distracted? What about you and I? Are we also "worried and distracted"? About what could we *possibly* be worried?! Well, maybe ...

- Covid-19 and its various infectious incarnations
- Getting sick
- Death
- Financial insecurity
- The children and grandchildren
- Loneliness
- The state of the world

The list could go on, no doubt. But here's the thing. I'm guessing *you are more like Mary than Martha*. You are not worried or distracted by the items on this list. Rather, you are sitting, like Mary, at the feet of Jesus and "listening to what he [is] saying" (v. 39).

Listening to Jesus in a world of worry and distraction is the best thing we can do! Jesus calls it choosing "the better part." Perhaps, this is what songwriter Helen Lemmel (1863-1961) meant when she penned the words, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, / look full in his wonderful face. / And the things of earth will go strangely dim, / in the light of his glory and grace."

Are we worried and distracted, or are we listening and looking upon Jesus?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I am prone to the worries and distractions of Martha. Someone needs to pay attention to what is going on! But help me not to lose sight of your divine guidance and providence. I know that it's all good. Truly, there is no need to worry! In your name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Acts 6-9
- Monday:** Isaiah 55-57
- Tuesday:** Isaiah 58-60
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 61-63
- Thursday:** Isaiah 64-66
- Friday:** Micah 1-4
- Saturday:** Psalms 76-78

Verse to Remember

*“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters
... come, buy and eat!” —Isaiah 55:1*

SPELLING ALERT: Vowels Missing from Bible Verse!

Please look at the Scripture verses below and replace the missing vowels to reveal the verses.

Th_r_f_r_, _s G_d's ch_s_n p_ _pl_, h_ly _nd d_ _rly
l_v_d, cl_th_ y_ _rs_lv_s w_th c_mp_ss_ _n, k_ndn_ss,
h_m_l_ty, g_ntl_n_ss _nd p_t_ _nc_. —C_l_ss_ _ns 3:12

F_r by gr_c_ y__ h_v_ b__n s_v_d thr_ _gh f_ _th, _nd
th_s _s n_t y__r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s th_ g_ft _f G_d —
n_t th_ r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t n_ _n_m_y b_ _st.
—_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9

FAMOUS FEMALES: Which of these women were born in the U.S. and which were born in the U.K.?

Missing Vowels: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. — Colossians 3:12; For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9. **Famous Females:**
1. UK, 2. US, 3. US, 4. UK, 5. UK, 6. US, 7. UK, 8. US, 9. US, 10. UK, 11. US, 12. UK, 13. UK, 14. US, 15. UK, 16. US.

NAME	U.S. or U.K.?	NAME	U.S. or U.K.?
1. Agatha Christie		2. Geraldine Ferraro	
3. Chris Evert		4. J.K. Rowling	
5. Theresa May		6. Harriet Tubman	
7. Julie Andrews		8. Elizabeth Taylor	
9. Joan Didion		10. Jane Austen	
11. Sally Ride		12. Beatrix Potter	
13. Kate Winslet		14. Rosa Parks	
15. Diana Spencer		16. Wallis Simpson	