

Sunday, May 13, 2018 – 7th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: A Tale of Two Sisters

Read Luke 10:38-42



I read that sibling rivalry is something that begins when a second child is born and continues throughout their lives. Mary and Martha show sibling rivalry in trying to get Jesus' attention. Jesus had come to visit in their home and Martha is busy getting everything ready while Mary sits and listens to Jesus.



Martha wanted everything just right. We can admire that in her. She wanted to see that the food was ready and that Jesus was comfortable. These are good things. The problem is that the work became more important than Jesus. She was looking at the details and missed the big picture. The important thing was that Jesus had come to her home. Instead of paying attention to Jesus she got so involved in details she did not hear what Jesus was saying. She became bitter because Mary was sitting there listening to Jesus and not helping her sister. It got bad for Martha when she complained to Jesus thinking Jesus would tell Mary to help her sister, and instead Jesus said Mary was doing what was the most important.



Mary was interested in Jesus. She sat and listened to what Jesus had to say. Mary did not want to miss what Jesus was teaching. She sat at His feet and listened to Him. She showed an interest in Jesus and not all of the details. Jesus knew that He only had a limited amount of time to teach. He wanted to make sure people knew the truth that He had come to teach. It may seem that Martha was doing the best thing. Just before this in Luke Jesus has told the story of the Good Samaritan and the importance of helping those in need. More than taking care of details, Jesus shows us that what is important is paying attention to God and others.



I think we would all like Jesus to say of us we made the best choice. We need to pay attention to Jesus. This does not mean we can ignore everything except Jesus. We see the needs around us and we do what we can about them. We need to see people for who they are, not just the needs that they have. It is easy to get so caught up with people's needs that we do not think of them as people. Realize that God loves all people. We can share the love of Christ with them. It does not mean just doing for them, but seeing them for who they are. It is easy to become too busy doing for God that we forget to pay attention to God. We can do a lot of good things but miss what is best. The good is the enemy of the best. Look for the best.



Take time to spend with God. Life gets busy. There are so many things that seem important going on that we can skip time with God. It makes a big difference in our lives when we spend time in prayer and reading the Scriptures. That is how our spirits are fed. Just like our bodies our spirits need nourishment. Make sure you are spending time with Jesus. Do not get so busy for Jesus that you do not spend time with Him.



Look at how we can serve Jesus. As we spend time with Jesus we will probably see new ways that we can serve as His body. He uses us to reach out to others. People need to know that Jesus loves them. We take it for granted, but others do not know that. When we know that Jesus loves us and we have a relationship with Him then we can reach out to others. We need to realize our limitations. There is so much that we can see that needs to be done. We only have 24 hours in a day. We do not want to be lazy, but also realize that we can only do so much in a day. It is hard for many of us to say no. We want to show how much we can do. Sometimes we do this to prove our worth to other people, ourselves and even God. God calls us to do what we can, but He did not make us superhuman. Make sure we are doing what is the best and not just what is good. We are called to serve Jesus, but make sure we are paying attention to Jesus.