

Breaking Open the Word: The Word is a Slice of Life
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 17 July 2022

READING AND FAITH SHARING FOR THE DAY:

*Today's Gospel is **Luke 10:38-42**. Each of the Readings can be read or simply the Gospel. 1st Reading: **Genesis 18:1-10a**; 2nd Reading: **Colossians 1:24-28**. WHILE SOMEONE READS THE SCRIPTURE(S), LISTEN WELL. BE AWARE OF THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE OR EXPERIENCE?*

After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s) with each other:

Is this Gospel addressing a slice of life or not?

- ✓ *When have you been confronted with this scenario of a guest who everyone has been waiting for shows up and a) there's stuff to do, b) the desire to be 10% present and c) there's a discrepancy between who is doing or not doing what? Which "what" do you get caught up in? The "doing" or the "not doing?"*
- ✓ *When have you been the "awaited one" wishing that everyone would just stop the "fuss" and sit down?*
- ✓ **Last week's 1st Reading put it this way: it (the Word) is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out.** What we want is right in front of us and within us and wanting to connect.
- ✓ *What could Martha's reticence be to sit down and listen? ...besides a hospitality of preparing*
- ✓ *What could Mary's reticence be about getting up and doing something? ...besides a hospitality of being present*
- ✓ *When have you had a really good encounter while walking and talking with someone? ...or sitting at the kitchen counter joining the preparation?*
- ✓ *What could Martha's fear be to stop and listen? What is your fear to stop and reflect?*
- ✓ *Was Mary's "sitting at the feet of the master" any more attentive than Martha's busy-ness?*
- ✓ *To what*

Today's 1st Reading has Abraham and Sara wanting something very specific! (The promise of a baby from the guests at the door!) You've heard of, perhaps, the saying **Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2) **Abraham and Sara certainly had! Their preparation (hospitality) was their engagement (with the Living Word), and the promise was given.****

- ✓ *What hope of yours has all of a sudden been realized?*
- ✓ *What was your experience of that?*

Paul puts it this way in his letter to the Colossians: it (the Word, a promise) **has been [made known] to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.**

- ✓ *Have you encountered this mystery? What's the mystery*
- ✓ *What is the hope for glory in your life?*

For Paul the "hope of glory" was giving the message further.

In effect he was Martha and Mary at the same time. He was in the kitchen and the living room simultaneously. The "honored guest" is us!! It is up to us to do the inner work of hearing the Word as a seed of conversion and internal change. The mystery is how the Word transforms us a little (or a lot) each day.

- ✓ *How is your walk with Jesus?*
- ✓ *How are you being called out to be engaged in the Christ (anointed) life here and now?*

Intentions for the World in Which We Live!

For the Church:

May our deeds of hospitality and service reveal for others a glimpse of the face of God.

For the fulfillment of God's saving work:

May our connection with Christ through the consequences of choices for the common good enable the healing presence of God to influence others' lives.

For couples seeking to be parents:

Creator, attend to the desires of their hearts. Gift them with a child to love. Nurture and guide them to maturity.

For people busy about work and progress: Creator, free us from overworking. Help us find a life-giving balance. Help us recognize the relationships which bring us life.

For people who offer hospitality to unsheltered neighbors, the infirm, assist travelers, and people incarcerated:

May their service be a balm to psychic wounds and nurturance to human hungers.

Finish by praying the Lord's Prayer/