

martha
(Luke 10: 38-42)

Scripture:

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he entered a village and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister named Mary who sat down at the Lord's feet to listen to his words. Martha, meanwhile, was busy with all the serving and finally she said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the serving?"

But the Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about many things, whereas only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

Meditation:

the room was full of papers
 piled high
from the window you could look
down to the street

what am i doing?
 this is the question i
 am asking myself
 this morning
as i stare at the work
 before me
it always seems
there is too much to do
not enough time

last night
i walked around the plaza
 leisurely enjoying
 the night air
i walked
 i did not run
this morning i am rushing
once again
last night was a good reminder
 that life can be different
 does not have
 to go so fast
i begin to think
about all i have to accomplish

this day
as i do this
voices outside
 my window
 catch my attention
i recognize the voice
of jesus and his friends

i look about me
i feel so trapped
on one hand i am so happy
 that jesus and his disciples
 are visiting
but on the other hand
 i feel the pressure
 of how many things
 i still need to do
rushing downstairs
 opening the front door
 there they are
now looking
into jesus' face

jesus smiling
martha good to see you
he has his traveling bag
around his shoulder
he is glad to come inside
proceeding
 to the coolest room
thinking to myself
 of all the things
 i need to do
as i reflect on this
my sister mary
enters
goes to jesus
she sits
begins a conversation
they begin to talk
 about the happenings
 around this village
 the recent captures
 and killings
then mary begins
 to talk about her life

i want to stay
and listen to what jesus
tells her
but my sense of obligation
 pulls me
 to the kitchen
beginning to cut the vegetables
prepare the meat
as i do this
i feel resentful
 and sad
at the same time
i so much want
to be there with jesus
how to better plan my day?
or what do i do
that i never
can just sit
 down and enjoy
 the company of friends?

as i chop and chop
reflecting
how true that is
just to have had time to walk
rather than run
to experience what i did
 last night in the plaza
no one is forcing me
 to be different
no one forced me
 to come back here
i could have stayed with jesus
but i didn't

to go slower
to enjoy life
always running
with my desk piled up

tears begin
to fall quickly
from my eyes
did not realize
how i am victim

to my own compulsions
i would like to change
know that as
i continue to cook
know that i want
 to do less
 to be more present
 to enjoy life more
what is happening to my life?
do i just go through
the motions of the day?
 to go slower
 to do less
 and i will do more
to reach
 the absolute silence
 that is within

start to cut the bread
watching the knife
pierce into the loaf
remembering
whenever
 i would take time out
 in the morning
and i would sit
 in the darkness
 of the dawn
 outside in the back
 there was a stillness
 a silence
 a peace
 that penetrated my whole being
 it would change my whole day
but i have not done that
 for many days
my spirit
 yearning
 for deeper union

as i start to move
the food to the table
to lead a more simple life
 where life is different
 is not so full
finish the last preparations

sweat mixing together
with my deep emotions
walk back into the room
 there is a peacefulness
 a tranquility
which seems the opposite
of who i am
ready to open my mouth
 and announce
 that the food is ready
but nothing comes out
rather i feel pulled
to sit down next to jesus

when the group finishes speaking
 jesus smiles
 asks me
 what i am thinking

jesus
 i sit here
 next to you
you have been here many times
in our house
each time you come
i find myself
 involved in so many tasks
 always busy about something
i fill up my day
with so many nonessential tasks
i would like to change

jesus looking me in the eyes
 martha would you really
 like to change?

yes jesus

i follow jesus out the door
he tells the group
he wants to speak with me
we wander over to the plaza
jesus asks me
what i have been doing lately

i tell him

how i am involved
in a project
to help with the orphanage
jesus i like to do this
it gives me life
i start to get excited
i can tell jesus is interested
in what i say
he cares about how i feel
he asks me questions
just walking around the plaza
not hurrying
so martha
do you want
to let go
of some things
that are not essential?
it will be difficult at first
walking around the plaza
watching the children play
the oldest
sitting on the benches
content
not to have to do anything
we sit on a wooden bench
and i tell jesus
what is inside me
about my desires
my dreams
sitting on this bench
speaking about those dreams
will never forget this afternoon
as the day cools off
as the afternoon is ending
dream of what life
could be like
just feels good to be here
not having to do anything
to accomplish anything
so different from how
i began the day
telling jesus
about the people
in my life who are important
why is something happening within
doing this?

somehow
it is making a difference
telling jesus
about the pain
i am having in relationships
the anxiety of not having
the money to cover expenses

i can tell
jesus
is glad to be here with me
he begins to talk
about his days of late
i can tell life is not easy
for him either
he also is glad
to be able to tell me
about himself
feel alive in my heart
a very different feeling
from the anger
i was feeling
in the kitchen
rather feel a burning great
for this one

jesus
i don't want to waste my life
that is my greatest fear
that is why sometimes
i cannot stop
this country
is so unjust
sometimes i cannot sleep
at night
thinking about what i have seen
want to do so much
feel so powerless
so weak
that is why i go in circles
but jesus
i just know that
being overloaded
does not achieve
what i am supposed to do
would like to do something
to make this a better world

would like to do so many things
and just sitting
 here with you jesus
realize there is
 only one thing important
 only one thing important
to do all from the love
that is found in the heart
 to do all this with love
realize jesus
if i would only listen
 to this love
 in my heart more
i would know
what to do

as the sun
sets this afternoon
i learn something
that i will never forget
i go back to it
 again and again
being with jesus
doing nothing
everything
 begins to happen