

**8 October 2019**

**Lk 10:38-42**

**A Heart to Listen Is More Important than the Will to Act**

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Today's gospel passage is a tip given by Jesus for all the missionaries and all those who wish to become missionaries. He tries to make everyone aware that being in the presence of Jesus is the beginning of all the missionary work. Because we are called to execute the plans of the one who called us. So being with him and listening to him will surely reveal his mind and heart for our missionary work.

In the gospel passage, Jesus was not humiliating Martha, who loved Jesus and wanted to please him by preparing delicious dishes for him. But Jesus means to say Martha did the right thing at the wrong time but Mary did the right thing at the right time. Jesus knew very well his time is approaching for the trial and suffering. He was going to Jerusalem with a heart filled with much grief. On his way Jesus passed through the house at Bethany. What he sought was, someone to be with him so that he could share his inner battle. But at that time Martha was busy in preparing meals for him. But Mary did what Jesus wanted. Still Jesus didn't say anything to Martha. But when Martha started complaining about Mary, then Jesus said, "Martha Martha you 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." Martha very eagerly welcomed Jesus but that welcoming did not bring the effect in Jesus, which she intended. when she did not attend to him in his inner battle all her efforts to get into the good book of Jesus became futile.

Ghanaian community is a welcoming community. The warmth of their welcoming is so well that we feel to enjoy the same for several times. When we visit them first, they welcome us with a handshake. Once we are seated then we are served with water. Then they come to ask our mission (This happens even if we inform them well in advance the purpose of our visit). After stating our mission or the purpose of the visit they respond with the words of welcome and follows with another handshake. Then follows the serving of cooldrinks or snacks or meals etc. The important factor is that they are ready to spend any amount of time for us when we are with them listening to our problems and concerns. I feel that Ghanaians are a great inspiration to today's generation who do not have time for one another.

Let's examine ourselves whether we have chosen the better part. Do we have time for Jesus to be with him to know his will before we move to our fields? Unless we make time for him to listen to his heart and mind neither will we be able to listen to our brothers and sisters in our field, who need us in their inner battles. May this Divine Liturgy help us to take strong resolution to choose the better part like Mary. Amen.

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