



## ***16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR C – July 21, 2019***

There is a story I want to share with you today. I'm told it is a true story.

One night a father came to a parent-teacher conference in a Chicago high school. During a talk with one of his son's teachers, the father broke down and began to cry.

After he regained his composure, the father apologized, saying "My son no longer lives with me. But I still love him, and I want to know how he's doing in school." The father then told the teacher how his wife and four children had left him that afternoon.

He was a construction man and sometimes worked 16 hours a day. He saw little of his family, and gradually, they grew farther and farther apart.

Then the father said, "I wanted to buy my wife and kids all those things I had dreamed of giving them. But I got so involved in working that I forgot about what they needed most: a father who was around at night, someone to listen to them, someone to give them love and support - and now they're gone."

That true story illustrates the point of today's Gospel reading (Luke 10:38-42). We can get so involved in what we're doing that we forget why we're doing it. We can get so involved in living that we forget the purpose of living. We can get so involved in pursuing the things that money can buy that we forget about the things that money can't buy.

It's the kind of mistake that Martha made in the Gospel story today. She got so involved in cooking a meal for Jesus that she missed the point of why He came.

He didn't come for a free meal. He wasn't hungry for food. He came to talk, and he needed someone to listen. He knew he would die on the cross before the week was over. Imagine the things that must have been running through his mind. He came to be with friends. He needed to talk. Martha did not have time to listen. Mary chose the better part.

Is there a person in your life who is looking for someone to listen; perhaps a spouse, a child, a parent, or a friend? Do you have the time to meet their need or are you too busy with "other" things? Is it time to stop "doing" and "talking" and just "listen"?

**God has chosen you.  
Choose the better part.**

