

27<sup>th</sup> Week in OT Cycle B  
Weekday 2/Tuesday  
Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42

There is a beautiful line found in the rule of St. Benedict which states: "***Welcome everyone as if they were Christ himself...***"

It's a rule built off the words of our Lord from Matthew 25:35 and beyond: "***For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. 'For as long as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'***"

As we all know, whenever this gospel ends up being preached upon, Martha ends up over here while Mary is placed at the center of things. And yet, the only way that Mary could choose the better part was because Jesus happened to be in her presence in the first place. In other words, it is thanks to: "***a woman named Martha who welcomed him into her home***" that Mary was then able to choose the better part.

This reality speaks to us about the dynamic of personal relationships. And here I mean relationships with everyone we meet whether it's on the street, a neighbor, someone here at church, your own children, a family member. What does it mean to "***Welcome everyone as if they were Christ himself...***"

My brother may be three years younger than I, there are many things in life that have learned from the way that he is built. **My brother is deep...** While growing up throughout high school and beyond, he was never one to go to parties, or drinking with his buddies at the bar or doing all things that groups of friends like doing together. It's not that he didn't have any friends, rather: ***even to this day, my brother has no time for superficial, meaningless, fake relationships with people...***

Don't get me wrong, he'll start there – for ***all relationships start on the superficial level*** – but if that's where they stay, if our relationships with one another remain on the level of being a simple acquaintance among the many because we are ***distracted and so busy with many tasks and preoccupations***, then WE MISS THE POINT FOR BEING IN RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIRST PLACE..

That's the beauty of having Martha and Mary combined for us in today's reading. On the surface level, ***Martha was the one who welcomed Christ like Christ because he was Christ***. But after the polite superficialities of the day were over, it was **Mary that chose to go deep...**

I mean, IF AN ANGEL APPEARED TO US and told us that God has granted us a private audience with his Son whereby we were going to be given the opportunity to ***spend three hours being able to sit at Jesus' feet*** while listening to his wisdom and being able to ask him questions that only he can answer, how would we choose to enter into those three hours? **Superficially** or ***as deep as we can possibly go??***

It's a rhetorical question... Of course we would want to go deep! **DEEP AS THE OCEAN FLOOR...** The beauty behind this is that in **the ENFLESHED PRESENCE of our Lord's Sacred Heart** that is enthroned within the Monstrance on Friday's at St. Peter's – and He's just as present to us here every time we gather for 12 hours of Adoration that day as he was to Mary some 2000 years ago.

He's also ***JUST AS PRESENT TO US TODAY!*** Every day as a PRISONER OF LOVE emanating Peace from Heaven through the walls of the Blessed Tabernacle right here, right now. Jesus truly is here within the walls of this Church... And while it's true that we are to welcome everyone as if they were Christ himself, it's also true that we need to make sure we don't think of Christ's presence in this church ***as just somebody or anyone else***.

The Master is here!!! and every day, he invites us to come **early before Mass** and if we can, to stay for a few minutes after Mass **to SIT AT HIS FEET, to listen to his Wisdom, and to follow the example of Mary – GO DEEP into relationship with Your God!!**