

The one necessary thing is our personal relationship with God. Tuesday of 27th Week October 6th, 2020. (Gal. 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42)

In today's gospel, we have the story of two sisters who were very close to Jesus together with their brother Lazarus. The text didn't mention Lazarus and it didn't tell whether any male disciple accompanied Jesus to the house. It is probably for this reason Mary assumed the role of sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to his words. Sitting at the feet of a rabbi was a role traditionally reserved for men. Obviously, a woman sitting at Jesus' feet like a man might have embarrassed Martha in addition to her being left to do the serving alone.

Jesus answers Martha's complain that sitting at his feet and listening to his word is the one thing that is necessary in life. In other words, developing a personal relationship with God in whatever state of life you find yourself is very necessary. For us to have a good relationship with Jesus we need to avoid distraction and pay attention to him. The problem with Martha is not being busy with serving, but her problem is distraction. The Greek word that translate being "distracted" is "periespato" which literally means being dragged in different directions. In fact, Martha's distraction pulled her into different directions and worries that she is not able to pay attention to the guest she was serving.

The one thing Jesus wants all of us to realize is that we are not valued for what we do or how well we do things. But we are valued for who we are as children of God living in His gracious presence undistracted. In the 1st reading, Paul describes himself as a man of action called by God to spread the good news among the gentiles. Whether you are called into active life or contemplative, the one thing that

is necessary is to have a personal relationship with Jesus living in his presence
always. **Amen. By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar**