

## **True friendship with God 7/21/19**

**GN 18:1-10A, COL 1:24-28, LK 10:38-42**

Last Sunday's gospel was about the good Samaritan, about how he helped a stranger who had been robbed and left half dead by the side of the road. Today is about how Martha and Mary received Jesus into their home and extended to him the details of hospitality.

In the first reading, Abraham invites three strangers into his home, offering them cold water and a meal to satisfy their hunger. The story has its setting in the nomadic life of the Semitic people who travelled long distances on foot or on animals. In such context, friendliness and hospitality to the stranger was seen as a virtue. Abraham showed friendship to the strangers and realized in the end that he had offered hospitality to God himself.

Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus, in the gospel, to their home as a guest and served his needs. Martha cooked the meal and Mary visited with him. The Martha and Mary roles in today's gospel passage are all very important. There is the fundamental task of proclaiming the gospel (Jesus speaking and Mary listening). There is also the Martha role of service. The best way to proclaim the kindness of God is to show it to others. Mathew reminds us that at the end of time, Jesus will say to us, I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was naked and you gave me no clothes...

Friendship requires humility and trust. It also requires love and self-giving. We are invited to show friendship to one another and to care for the needs of one another. We become the friends of God when we do!

We are called upon to welcome Jesus who comes to us in his word and allow him a place in our house. Let us welcome the Lord with humility like Abraham. Like Mary, let us have time for his word of life, it is the part most important. If we welcome Jesus like a friend he will come and dwell in us, our hope of glory.