Mother's Day
May 11, 1975
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

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IN NOMINE JESU

St. Luke 10: 38 - 42:

TODAY we CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY - - and it is WELL that we DO. Outside of ADAM and EVE, every single HUMAN BEING who has ever LIVED on the EARTH has had a MOTHER EVEN our Lord Jesus Christ Had a Mother — The blessed Virgin Mary.

MOTHER is often the UNSUNG HERO of the FAMILY and HOME. Her TASKS are COUNTLESS - - and they OFTEN go UNAPPRECIATED. MOTHERS are usually taken for GRANTED There is more TRUTH than POETRY in the saying: "A MAN WORKS FROM SUN TO SUN, BUT A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE."

MOTHER is the HUB around which the WHOLE FAMILY REVOLVES. First of all, she is a WIFE to her HUSBAND. She is his COMPANION and HELP MATE. She is his NECESSARY COMPLEMENT - - MENTALLY, SPIRITUALLY, and PHYSICALLY. She often WORKS OUTSIDE the HOME in order to SUPPLEMENT the FAMILY BUDGET - - so that they can make ENDS MEET.

In the HOME she is usually "CHIEF COOK and BOTTLE WASHER". Most of us take it for GRANTED that MOTHER will CHANGE the SHEETS, makes the BEDS, do the WASHING,

IRON the CLOTHES, CLEAN the HOUSE, DO the SHOPPING. She is also the FAMILY NURSE - -DISPENSING the MEDICINE, putting OINTMENT on the baby's DIAPER RASH, fixing SKINNED KNEES, and CHINS, and ELBOWS, always soothing and COMFORTING and CONSOLING EVERYBODY'S ACHES and PAINS.

As GREAT, and WONDERFUL, and PRAISE WORTHY as ALL of these things ARE - - that is STILL NOT ENOUGH. That TRUTH comes out into TODAY'S GOSPEL LESSON - - - where Jesus is being ENTERTAINED by 2 VERY DEAR FRIENDS from BETHANY. They were very KIND to HIM - - and He LIKED to STAY THERE - - and He ENJOYED having a MEAL with them. They ENJOYED HAVING HIM TOO.

The point of the WHOLE STORY is that BUSY WORK is NOT ENOUGH. When Jesus and His Disciples CAME to BETHANY, "A ~~WOAMN~~ WOMAN NAMED MARTHA WELCOMED THEM TO HER HOME. ~~SHE~~ HER SISTER, MARY SAT ON THE FLOOR ~~SAT ON THE FLOOR~~, LISTENING TO JESUS AS HE TALKED." But MARTHA was the FUSSY TYPE and was WORRYING over the BIG DINNER she was PREPARING. She came to Jesus and said, "SIR, DOSEN't IT SEEM UNFAIR TO YOU that MY SISTER JUST SITS HERE WHILE I DO ALL THE WORK? TELL HER TO COME AND HELP ME." Jesus said to her, "MARTHA, MARTHA, YOU ARE UPSET OVER

ALL THESE DETAILS! THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE THING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT. MARY HAS DISCOVERED IT - - AND I WON'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM HER!"

I think I can UNDERSTAND MARTHA. I FEEL for her. She has been MISUNDERSTOOD - - and so have a LOT of OTHERS LIKE HER. .....She is the ORGANIZER in the FAMILY - - who keeps things GOING. She is the REAL SOUL of HOSPITALITY. And, after all, PEOPL E have to EAT - - don't they? The answer to that is: "YES, THEY DO - - at some time or other, when the TIME is RIGHT."

I don't think our Lord was ~~CRITIZING~~ CRITICIZING MARTHA for PREPARING FOOD. He was HUMAN TOO - - and He understood the REALITIES of EVERY DAY LIVING. He also KNEW what LIFE is all about - - and He wanted to IMPRESS upon MARTHA and upon US that LIFE is NOT all about FOOD. Or, to put it ANOTHER WAY, LIFE is MORE than MEAT and POTATOS - - BREAD and BUTTER.

One thing is MORE IMPORTANT than BACON and EGGS or a PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY SANDWICH. One thing is NECESSARY, if life to be something MORE than LIVING from HAND to MOUTH. One thing is ABSOLUTELY ~~ESCENCIAL~~ ESSENTIAL, if we are NOT to continue to

SPIN our WHEELS from day to day. "MARY HAS CHOSEN THE RIGHT THING!"

"SHE SAT DOWN AT THE FEET OF THE LORD AND LISTENED TO HIS TEACHING."

Jesus Christ is LIFE! "FOR ME LIVING IS CHRIST, AND CHRIST IS LIVING," said St. Paul

When you have to make a DECISION about what is REALLY RIGHT - - this has to be IT!

It is MORE IMPORTANT than ANYTHING ELSE in the WHOLE WORLD - - and, I might add,

MORE IMPORTANT than ANYTHING ELSE in the WHOLE CHURCH. With the WORLD

and the CHURCH in TURMOIL THESE DAYS - - I personally have come to UNDERSTAND a

man like St. Paul better than ever, when he says: "ALL THINGS ARE YOURS IN CHRIST.

WHEN YOU HAVE HIM, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING."

I THANK GOD for a CHRISTIAN MOTHER who TAUGHT ME THIS. I THANK GOD for a

MOTHER who taught me about JESUS - - who read me BIBLE STORIES when I was a CHILD - -

who taught me HOW to PRAY. I THANK GOD for a MOTHER who taught me RIGHT from

WRONG. I will NEVER FORGET visiting some friends and "ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE"

coming home with a TOY in my POCKET - - and how my MOTHER insisted I BRING it BACK and

APOLIGIZE. My MOTHER and FATHER taught me what FORGIVENESS is all about. They

taught me how JESUS CAME to GIVE US the PROMISE of FORGIVENESS and LIFE in His

NAME. They taught me that FORGIVENESS is the BEGINNING of a NEW CHANCE! They taught me that EVERYTHING is NEW in CHRIST. They taught me how to HANDLE GRIEF and SORROW. They took me to FUNERALS -- and when I began to ASK QUESTIONS, they opened to me the SCRIPTURES. They taught me that DEATH really transforms into LIFE. They showed me, for example, how when MARTHA had lost her brother in DEATH, ~~how~~ Jesus CAME to her and said: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.....ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE." They took me to CHURCH and SUNDAY SCHOOL -- and all the while they were showing me that CHRIST is LIFE -- and that ~~that~~ His LIFE is the LIGHT OF MEN.

It seems to me that, like MARTHA, people TODAY have NO TIME to GET to KNOW JESUS CHRIST. Everything ELSE seems to be MORE IMPORTANT. "I HAVE TO WORK -- this is the ONLY DAY I have to SLEEP -- this is the ONLY DAY I have for MYSELF -- I can be a CHRISTIAN WITHOUT COMING to WORSHIP, or COMMUNION, or BIBLE CLASS, or SUNDAY SCHOOL, or having FAMILY or PRIVATE DEVOTIONS." "I WOULD RATHER be out FISHING, or GOLFING, or just LAZING around the HOUSE.....ONE THING is for SURE -- you WILL HAVE TIME TO DIE! And there is ANOTHER THING that is even MORE SURE -- CHRIST has the TIME FOR YOU! He had TIME to DIE FOR YOU! And He

IS TALKING TO YOU TODAY! "ONE THING IS NEEDFUL" - - ONE THING ~~IS BEING~~

~~CONCERNED ABOUT~~ IS WORTH BEING CONCERNED ABOUT - - that is, to KNOW HIM

and to HAVE LIFE as ONLY HE can GIVE IT!

MOTHERS, FATHERS, - - - there is NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT that you can DO for your

CHILDREN than to "BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

HE is the LIFE and the RESURRECTION - - and if that is NOT IMPORTANT, I'd like to KNOW

WHAT IS. Amen!!!