

CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

Who will be pleasing in your eyes, Lord?

This question, presented in Psalm 15 of our celebration, seems to have the same meaning as the question the scholar of the law asked Jesus: "What must I do to attain eternal life?"

And on this Sunday, through the Word of God, we find the answer.

St Luke in the Gospel, presents a beautiful scene: Jesus visits the house of his friends. But Jesus also introduces us to his friends and the conflict that arises there; Jesus, as a Teacher, gives an important lesson.

The first thing we must emphasize is that Jesus arrives at this house of his friends, a house where he, in addition to being well received, feels at ease; he feels at home.

Using modern language, we could say that the house of his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus is a safe environment.

And the first thing we might ask ourselves is what the atmosphere is like in our home to welcome Jesus? If Jesus wanted to stay in our home, would he find this welcoming, peaceful, family-like environment? Or, on the contrary, is our home a place of tension, disorder, constant fighting, shouting, and unforgiveness?

Let's learn: our exterior is a reflection of our interior.

Our home also symbolizes our heart. At this moment in our lives, how is our heart ready to welcome Jesus?

Analyzing our current reality, we find ourselves in a world that lives in a hurry, full of activities, commitments, saturated with social media; all of

the above leads us to activism. Activism is understood as filling ourselves with activities, but forgetting the most important thing.

And that is exactly what happened in that home in Bethany, in that safe environment. Martha makes a complaint to Jesus: Haven't you noticed that my sister has left me alone with everything? Martha had been busy preparing everything necessary for Jesus' stay. It was her way of showing her appreciation for her teacher, but she forgot the essential thing: to be with him.

Jesus, taking advantage of this conflict over Mary's apparent lack of help to her sister Martha, responds: Martha, only one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the better part, and no one will take it away from her.

And this happens very often in our lives, due to the hectic work, home, and social commitments; we forget the most important thing: to listen attentively to our teacher.

Nowadays, with cell phones so fashionable and a necessary tool for our daily lives, we can't imagine not frequently recharging our cell phone batteries.

Likewise, our Christian life needs to be recharged with God's love through prayer and attentive listening to the Gospel.

Jesus highlights Mary's attitude, who knew how to do the most important thing to properly welcome Jesus into her home: to be with Him... LISTENING TO HIM!

In short, to be good Christians (to be pleasing to God), we must dedicate time to our prayer and, in the silence of our hearts, listen to the voice of the Lord.

May our actions, our service, our solidarity always be the fruit of our prayer, of our encounter with God.

I conclude with the words of Pope Francis: Tell me what your life is like, and I'll tell you what your prayer is like. Tell me what your prayer is like, and I'll tell you what your life is like.

May our heavenly Mother help us to be contemplative in action.

AMEN