



## Wednesday Prayer

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - The Value in both Listening and Doing

***Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42***

Wasn't each woman just doing what she perceived a good host? Martha through her attentive *giving* and Mary through her attentive *receiving*? Perhaps Jesus's response to Martha is not so much an expression of being fully present with the other as inherently better than Martha's busyness; rather, more about knowing when it's time to *actively listen* and when it's time to *actively do*.

In her book *Trauma and Grace*, author Serene Jones suggests the work of the Church is to create a safe space for survivors to tell their story (testify), someone to attentively listen (bear witness), and eventually TOGETHER begin to envision who and what they are called to be in the NOW on the other side of that trauma.<sup>1</sup>

This model for ministry correlates to the mission of Cherish all Children to equip churches and local communities to help raise healthy generations free from sexual exploitation in all its forms. Whether we are offering tools of primary prevention or resources for communities of faith to affectively walk alongside survivors, finding this balance and then moving in positive steps forward together is powerful! When we invite each other and those we seek to serve into the conversation, we can collectively inspire and sustain a ministry that is life affirming for all people.

**Heavenly Creator, strengthen with your healing grace parents, teachers, and mentors who accompany young people in their journey towards adulthood. Guide us in your wisdom so that we more clearly know when it is time to actively listen like Mary, and then actively do like Martha, so that together we can see a world in which all people are valued, respected, and safe. Amen.**

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Written by Sarah McGuiness, Luther Seminary graduate, LSS Metro Homeless Youth Community Engagement Intern, and member of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville MN.

<sup>1</sup> Jones, Serene *Trauma and Grace* (pp 31-33) Louisville Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2019