



Wednesday Prayer

6th Sunday after Pentecost – Marthas and Marys and Mamas

A woman named Martha opened her home to (Jesus). She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

Many a sermon has been delivered on the topic of Martha and Mary. Pastors ask, "Are you a Martha or a Mary?" The answer, for me, is I am both. When my two daughters were teens, it seemed I was more Martha than I wanted to be. Though I was not preparing to serve Jesus in the flesh like Martha, I was "worried and upset about many things" including what my girls were up to. Other translations say, "distracted by many things," and I was definitely that! Working two jobs, navigating a marriage to an alcoholic, checking in on my aging parents in a faraway state, dealing with a myriad of my own health issues—meant parenting teens was often done on the fly. I missed early clues that my older daughter was suffering from an eating disorder. My younger daughter has a traumatic brain injury and has difficulty making wise decisions. Sex trafficking of youth was not as well-known an issue then as it is now. Each of my girls might have been quite vulnerable. Me sitting at Jesus' feet and choosing to listen to what "will not be taken away?" Sadly, that was often neglected during those years.

As I write about Martha and Mary, I suddenly have great compassion for the parents of youth who have been trafficked or exploited. Most parents do the best with what they have; they love their kids, and they would do anything to keep them safe. If a youth gets caught up in a dangerous situation or suddenly disappears, Christian parents often turn to prayer—sitting at the feet of Jesus with "why" questions. Though their faith offers some comfort when their child has been harmed or when no one knows where their child is, parents suffer psychological wounds just as their children do. If the family is reunited, it's like a deck of cards has been shuffled as everyone in the family tries to pick up the pieces of their damaged lives. When we prayerfully consider how to help when a child is exploited or trafficked in our community, let's not forget how much the parents need to know they are loved and cared for by us and by our living Lord who promises to always be with us, and to hold us close in times of great need.

Wounded Healer, Gracious God, stir in us a compassion to act on behalf of the whole family when a child has suffered exploitation or trafficking. Amen.

Written by Meg Corrigan, Christian author, speaker and survivor. Visit www.MegCorrigan.com.

If you are concerned a young person may be experiencing exploitation or trafficking, contact the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/) at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733.