

# Monday 7th December

Peter Colyer

## Readings

Psalm 89

**Luke 10:38-42**

Romans 16:25-27

*"O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as thou wilt, and when and where,  
until thy bless face I see,  
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share."*

In this story Luke is telling us that Jesus redrew the boundaries between men and women.

The real problem between Martha and Mary was not the workload. The real problem was that Mary was behaving as if she was a man. In that culture houses were divided into male and female space and male and female roles were strictly demarcated as well. Mary had crossed an invisible but very important boundary within the house, and another equally important boundary within the social world.

The public room was where the men would meet, the kitchen belonged to the women. For a woman to settle down comfortably among the men was bordering on the scandalous.

Luke tells us that Mary *"sat down at the feet of the Lord."* To sit at the feet of a teacher was a decidedly male role. To sit at the feet of a rabbi was what you did if you wanted to become a rabbi yourself. Acts tells us that Paul, *"sat at the feet of Gamaliel"* (Acts 22 v 3). Martha was outraged that Mary should presume to do this, but Jesus affirms her right to do it. Jesus tells Martha, *"Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."* Mary was training to be a disciple and an apostle.

It is full of significance that Luke records this happening. Jesus is ensuring that those who's calling to God's work has been prevented by the narrow social conventions of the day will no longer be denied.

As he goes up to Jerusalem, Jesus leaves behind him people who have glimpsed a new vision of the kingdom, and for whom life will never be the same again.



Carving of "Chaos in a mediaeval kitchen"

Photo: Peter Colyer

## Monday 7th

**Lord, speak to me, that I may speak**  
in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou hast sought, so let me seek  
thy erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O strengthen me, that, while I stand  
firm on the rock, and strong in thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand  
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious things thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O give thine own sweet rest to me,  
that I may speak with soothing power  
a word in season, as from thee,  
to weary ones in needful hour.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as thou wilt, and when and where,  
until thy bless face I see,  
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

*Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)*

### Prayer

Almighty God, who to prepare for your coming in Jesus Christ, sent your messenger before you; forgive us for living without expecting and hearing the word of the coming of the Lord. In as much as we have been content with old ways and old ideas, and have not been stirred and inspired to look forward for you Kingdom. Forgive us Father. Open our eyes to the way you value people and the gifts they bring and the way you call people to your work. Amen

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



We pray for all who seek to find  
meaning in their lives.

We remember those whose family  
relationships are strained and  
un co-operative.

For pray for all who struggle with is-  
sues of self esteem.

YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral



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