

July 29, 2008  
Tuesday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Jeremiah 14:17-22

Psalms 79:8, 9, 11 and 13

John 11:19-27

*...but Mary sat at home.*

The contrast of the two stories about Mary and Martha is often startling to me. In the first story Mary defies the cultural norms to be near Jesus, yet in the second gospel story, she doesn't even leave home. While I am usually drawn to reflect on the transformation of Martha, today, I find myself struck by Mary's seemingly unusual behavior. Why would she stay home? It stirs questions for me about my own life. When do I 'stay home' and exactly what does that mean for me? There are times that I fail to step up and speak up to the injustice I see around me because I do not want to deal with the consequences of that choice. Is it then that I 'stay home'? I have no way of knowing what kept Mary at home that day. I do not know if she was acting out of fear of if, maybe, she stayed home to prepare the meal they would all share that evening. I can only speculate. But I can look into my own heart and examine the behaviors and choices I make each day to see if they fit with my vision of a life well lived, a life lived in Christ.

*Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.*

Rumi