



SAINT AUGUSTINE WRITES ON MARTHA AND MARY



Mary was intent on the sweetness of the Lord's word.
Martha was intent on how she might feed the Lord;
Mary was intent how she might be fed by the Lord.
By Martha a feast was being prepared for the Lord.
Mary then was listening with sweet pleasure to His most sweet word,
and was feeding with the most earnest affection.

These two women, who were both well pleasing to the Lord,
both objects of His love, both disciples;
in these two women the two lives are figured, the life present, and the life to come,
the life of labour, and the life of quiet, the life of sorrow,
and the life of blessedness, the life temporal, and the life eternal.

There were then in that house these two lives, and Himself, the Fountain of life.
In Martha was the image of things present, in Mary of things to come.
What Martha was doing, that we are now; what Mary was doing,
that we hope for. Let us do the first well, that we may have the second fully.
(Sermon 53)