

The One Thing Necessary

Key Scripture:

“but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, (the good portion AMP) which shall not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:42

Portion for the Journey:

We are living in a time when we have so much available! There are so many voices speaking into our lives at any given moment! Our cell phones offer connection moment by moment to friends and family. TV has hundreds of channels to choose between. We can carry thousands of books on our Kindle and stores are filled with new technology. The internet constantly offerings more “input.” 80% percent of the world's total knowledge has been uncovered in the last ten years. Spiritually, a vast variety of different religious experiences, types of services, messages and beliefs are instantly available. The book of Daniel describes the end of times when “many will go back and forth over the face of the earth and knowledge will increase.” Dan. 12:4 In the midst of so much input, there is “One Thing” that has not changed—God and His Word never change. He will provide us with everything we need for the days to come. God is calling us to maintain the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus.

In **2 Corinthians 11:2-3** Paul said, *“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”* When Jesus returns, we want to be one of the virgins who is ready for Jesus return...with oil in our lamps and hearts that are ready for our Savior.

TO DO THIS WE NEED TO BE FOCUSED ON THE “ONE THING” HE SAID WAS IMPORTANT!!

Luke 10:38-42 (NASB) Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, **who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.** But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, (AMP Mary has chosen the good portion) which shall not be taken away from her."

Jesus said that Mary found the “one thing” also translated “the good part” or “good portion” which shall not be taken away from her. Jesus said she had chosen the portion that which has the greatest benefit. “One thing” also means “first thing” and this shows us the first and most important thing is to love the Lord with all of our being! As Jesus told Martha, loving others and ministry must always come second to drawing near to Him.

The word “portion” is frequently used in the OT, and it primarily means ‘an appropriate portion or size for nourishment at one sitting.’ It also means one’s spiritual possession and a chosen pattern or lifestyle. (See Ps. 119:57; Ps. 78:26, Neh. 8:10) Does this stir you to want to make the same choice that Mary made?

What do we know about Mary's choice?

1. **She chose to draw close to Jesus.** Contrast this with Martha. Even though Jesus had come to her home, Martha did not draw close to Him, but remained in the periphery and focused on serving. Jesus held Mary up as an example to Martha. We can follow her example in our lives. The LORD has made an incredible promise to His people. James 4:8a says *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us! Discuss what hinders us from drawing close to the LORD. Read also Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:22

Revelation 3:20-22 (KJV) *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

The word "sup" contains many of the characteristics that take place when we draw close to Him to meditate in His Word. The word "sup" means to 'dine with or take the principle evening meal or feast.' The evening meal was the most important meal of the day-- it was a time of nourishment but more importantly, a time of friendship and fellowship. This meal was customarily taken in a very leisurely manner with the members of the family sitting or lying around a low table. We see this meal greatly illustrated at the Last Supper as Jesus and His disciples shared not only the meal but Jesus imparted them with His Words needful for facing the days ahead. It is a time to be fed of His Spirit and enjoy our friendship with Him. The Lord is calling His people to enter into a Sabbath rest from their own works and to enter into His inner chamber, the Holy of Holies, the Secret Place of the Most High. What is the promise for those who respond to the LORD in this passage?

2. **She was seated at His feet** listening to His Word! This is a position of respect and submission. She had assumed **the position of a disciple**. A disciple is one who learns or one who is taught by another. A disciple is more than just a pupil or scholar, the disciple is one who chooses to be bound to the teacher, to follow Him wherever He goes and seeks to become like the teacher in every way. Jesus told the Jews who had believed in Him, *"If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them] you are truly My disciples."* John 8:31 (Amp); Isa. 50:4 Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

3. **Mary was listening to His Voice.** vs. 39 the Word **"listening"** means to "give heed, to hear, understand, hearken with the idea of stillness or attention, to hear the voice, to be obedient." In **John 5:24 (AMP)** **Jesus said,** ²⁴ *"...most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life."*

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;
And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of My hand."* John 10:3-4

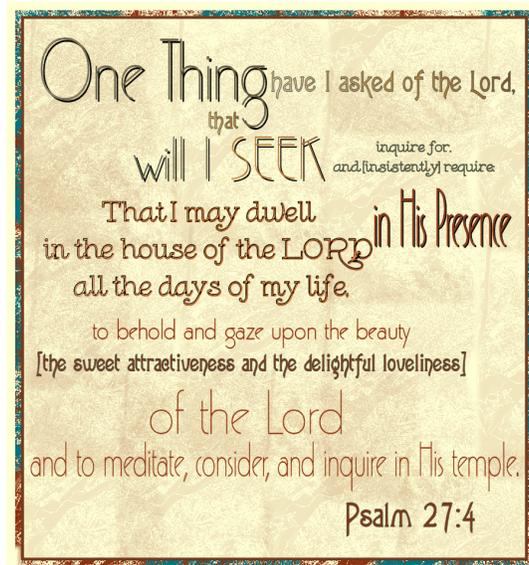
Knowing Jesus' voice is vital. It is possible to read the Word and not know His voice. We learn to recognize His voice the more we know Him. Have you ever gotten an email or read a note that you misinterpreted because you did not know the sender's voice? Tone of voice cannot be transmitted in a written narrative, but when we know the person, we hear their voice as we read. Ask the Lord to let you hear and recognize

His Voice. Example: Jesus asked the disciples many times, “How long” “You of little faith.” Do you think His voice angry, impatient or filled with longing?

There are numerous references that describe Moses’ ability to hear God’s voice. The Word says the LORD spoke to Moses face to face as a man would speak to his friend. In spite of this close relationship, Moses prayed, *“If I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight.”* (Read Ex. 33:11-13) Does this make you curious to know why Moses would request to know God’s ways? The word “ways” in the Hebrew is “derek” (Strong’s 1870) which refers to ‘the pathways worn by constant walking.’ Isa 55:8-11 the LORD tells us that our ways are not His ways, His ways are higher than our ways. We cannot know them unless He reveals them to us. In Psalm 103:7, the Word says, *“He made known His ways to Moses and His acts to the sons of Israel.”* Israel saw what God did, but to Moses it was given to have an understanding of His heart, His motives and His passions.

4. Mary’s focused on the Words of Jesus. God’s Word is life-giving. His Word is necessary for LIFE. “He who has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing.” Matthew 11:15 (AMP); John 6:63-68 (AMP)

5. Mary developed a close relationship with Jesus that was based on His true Person. So many have an opinion about Jesus and who He is and what they want from Him. To some His name is a magical password to allow us to enter heaven. Even in His day, his family and neighbors did not recognize Him as the Son of God. The Jews wanted a king to take Israel back from Rome. Some wanted to see miracles. Jesus wept over Jerusalem that they did not recognize Him on the day of His visitation. As He walked with His disciples, He spoke of the relationship He wanted with us-- that we would know the Father and enter into the same intimate relationship He had with the Father. He came so we could become sons and daughters of the King. His called us His friends and made it clear he was not interested in a slave and master relationship.



David is one of whom it is said that he had a heart after God’s own heart. David said there was “One Thing” he asked of the LORD. The “**one thing**” that David longed for speaks of intimacy and close friendship with our blessed Savior. This “one thing” that drew Mary, Moses and David close to the LORD allows us to be

nourished from His Word, The Bread of Life, which is more necessary than anything else to our spiritual life. Everything else that we learn, even if we painstakingly follow the teachings in the Bible will be just head knowledge and fruitless works, unless we are able to draw near to God and develop a relationship with Him. Study of the Word needs to include learning to listen to His voice and hearing what He speaks to our hearts in personal application. Does it sound impossible? Does it sound too hard for you? The Good News is that He loves you and longs for you to know Him! It is the cry of God's heart that all believers learn to hear His voice and abide in Him in a close friendship. When we are in a right relationship with Jesus, our prayers will be transformed and we will see God at work in our lives. As our love and knowledge of God grows, our prayers and our life in Him will become increasingly powerful. This right relation is developed as we seek Him in His Word and learn to listen to His voice as He speaks through the Word.

It is time to do serious business with God in our lives. Jesus said, "*You are my friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from My father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.*" (John 15:14-16)

Digging Deeper In the Word

(It is best to get a Bible that you don't mind marking in, because as you mark your Bible it becomes more uniquely yours and allows you to find passages again more easily.)

1. Turn to Psalm 27. READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE PSALM. What is the "one thing" that David requested? In Psalm 27:4, what are the various aspects of this "One Thing" that David desired of the LORD? What actions does David take to fulfill his heart's longing for God? See also **Psalm 27:8 (NASB)** "**When You said, ``Seek My face," my heart said to You, ``Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.**" From reading this verse, where does David's desire for God originate?

2. Paul, David and Moses's all declared there was "one thing" they sought. They chose to seek the LORD and they asked the LORD to reveal Himself to them. Phil. 3:13-14

Moses prayed, "*Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight.*" Ex. 33:13

David prayed, "**One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.**" Ps. 27:4

Paul declared, "I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but **one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]**: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also. Only let us hold true to what we have already attained and walk and order our lives by that." Philippians 3:13-16 (AMP)

We can pray this same prayer!! LORD, I want to know You!! I am willing to let You move freely in my life and to change me where I need to be changed. I want to draw near to You and see Your beauty. Please open my heart to believe in and receive Your love. I want to become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You. I want to recognize Your voice more strongly and clearly. Give me a greater love and understanding of Your Word and your ways. Open my eyes to see and understand Your Truth. Give me ears to hear! LORD, I want to place my life in Your hands. Please open Your Word to me and feed me from Your Word, the Bread of Life. Give me courage to allow You to change me. In Jesus Name, Amen (So be it!)

3. There will always be a battle to keep us from realizing God’s fullness. Heb. 12:1-2 “...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.” Let us pause here and pray that the Lord will send His search light into our hearts and cause us to be willing to let Him cut away anything that would hinder us from walking in close friendship with Him. What are the encumbrances or sin that you find trying to keep you from this “one thing?” Can you identify with Martha’s distractions in Luke 10:38-42?

3. Verses for additional study: Ps. 119:105; 130; Ps. 130:5-6; John 8:31-32; Ps. 37:4; 1 Cor. 2:16b; Ps. 81:8-13; 46:10; Ps. 63:1-3, 7,8; 42:1-2; Mark 6:31; 1 Tim. 4:7b-8; John 7:17; Isa. 40:31; 30:21; Ps. 119;114: 16:11

What God Is Speaking To You?

Summarize in your own words what God has spoken to you from this lesson.

Responding To God:

We cannot truly understand the Word without the Holy Spirit’s help. When you study the Word, begin by asking the LORD to give His light to receive the truth. Ask Him to help us hear His voice and understand His heart. As you read the word, respond to Him in prayer regarding what you are learning and what He has spoken to you. Ask His Spirit to give the Word life in your heart and to take root in your hearts and change you from the inside out!! Your response to His Word can be prayed into your life and then prayed out for others.



Do not worry about carefully phrasing your words! The cleverness of your speech means nothing to God. He is looking at your heart! Talk to Him as if you were talking to your closest friend who knows you and understands you better than anyone else, even when you don’t have the words to express what you are feeling!!

Today, let's pray together: LORD, I want to know You. I want to accurately handle Your Word and draw near to You. Help me to overcome my fear of drawing close to You. I don't know what You might require of me, but I make this choice today to seek You and walk in Your will. Change my heart where it needs changing. I want to choose the "One Thing" needful, which is to sit at Your feet and learn from You through Your Word!! Help me to forsake everything for You. Teach me to recognize Your voice and follow no one else but You. In Jesus Name, Amen