



"The One Thing We Really need"

by Pastor Jeffrey Miskus
Preached on the Eighth Sunday
After Pentecost
Text: Luke 10:38-42

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR CRUCIFIED, RISEN AND ASCENDED LORD, WHO IS NOT DEAD BUT ALIVE, WHO IS NOT IN THE TOMB, BUT IS WITH US HERE, NOW WITH HIS LOVE AND HIS POWER AS HE LIVES AND REIGNS AT THE GLORIOUS RIGHT HAND OF GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. DEARLY BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD.

Listen to Jesus' words to Martha this morning brothers and sisters... They are words we need to hear. "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needed." Is that you? Is your mind filled with worries, fears, anxieties and distractions? Are you troubled about many things?

Listen again to Jesus' words... They don't condemn, they simply take us by the hand and lead us to a green pasture full of rest and peace. "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her." Only one thing is needed. Mary chose that one thing.

What did Mary choose? Listen, "Now it happened as they went that Jesus entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who *also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.*" Simple isn't it? Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to what he taught.

THAT'S THE ONE THING WE REALLY NEED. To sit at the feet of the Son of God and let him fill us with his Spirit. To drink from the stream of living water so that we thirst no more. To hear what God has done, is doing, and will do to save this world. To hear what's important to God - and learn to make that important to us. To hear what God is doing and to join Him. To hear from our creator - what we were created for.

To be warned and protected from the dangers of sin, and the devil. To hear that despite all we see, and all the bad things that happen - there is a good God who loves us and has our best interests at heart. And to hear that this God is our Saviour who has all things under his control and command. To hear that God forgives us through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection – and that we have eternal life through him.

Only one thing is needed... To sit at the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ and listen to his Word.

Now there is one thing that this passage is not. It is not permission to be a lazy Christian. There are so many passages and parables in the bible encouraging us to be active, vigilant, prepared, and hard working at our faith that I can't even begin to quote just one. Martha is not condemned for being a zealous servant. Jesus was the ultimate zealous servant - infact zeal to serve his Father consumed him.

When Jesus says there is really only one thing we need - he is talking about priorities - that is what needs to come first - what is most important. Not that there's anyone in this church that would ever use this passage as an excuse to allow their faith to become inactive... but just in case... we need to see that there is nothing wrong with serving Jesus like Martha did - just think of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet - she served Jesus. Rather, it's when that service is done to the point where God's Word is not heard - that Jesus makes his point.

If you are too busy to read and study God's Word - then I need to tell you this day - you have your priorities mixed up. You are a Martha - and you are a danger to yourself and other Christians around you. Martha doesn't see what's really important - and look what happens....

The bible reads, "But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, don't You care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" Lord, don't you care..." Is that any way to talk to Jesus? Of course he cares - and she'd know that if she would sit at his feet and listen to him. That's what happens when we try to serve Jesus without listening to Him. We begin to question God or judge those around us.

Worse yet we might even begin preaching to God as Martha did. "Lord don't you care... - Tell her to help me." Ooops!!! Something's not right there. She's in a huff about a lot of things because she doesn't know the ONE THING THAT REALLY MATTERS.

It seems to me that we might want to keep this verse in mind when we gather together at meetings to discuss what we need to be doing. Before we get ourselves all in a huff like Martha - we'd better ask ourselves what's really important. Or we might find ourselves judging others as Martha judged Mary. Listen to Jesus' words from Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? "Which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying,

'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' "For people who don't know God run after all these things. But your heavenly Father knows that you need them. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Jesus gives us the top priority in life... "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" How do we do that? We sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his words.

And he tells us that if we trust in him, we are a part of His Kingdom. And he tells us all the blessings of His Kingdom. And he inspires us to serve him in His Kingdom.

Now I don't want to leave the impression that if we sit at Jesus' feet, and study God's Word everything in our lives will go so well that we'll have no worries or troubles or cares?

That is not what is promised here. We live in a world filled with trials and troubles and evil. We struggle with evil every day on a personal basis - as we struggle with sin. And on an interpersonal basis as we face the evil others may bring upon us. We also struggle to eek out a living each and every day.

God's word is the source of our strength and faith to face these things and overcome them. To face our sins - God's word assures us of our forgiveness - through Jesus' sacrificial death for us on the cross. To face our trials - Jesus reveals to us that God is with us always. To face our needs - we need to hear God say - "I will provide." To face the unknown we need to hear the reassuring voice of the one who knows all. We need to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his Word.

Jesus' Word moves us, inspires us, and teaches us. It will prepare you for work in God's Kingdom. It will equip you for the work. It will encourage you during the work. It will keep your eyes, heart, and mind fixed on the one who is really behind all the work - and who deserves all the credit and glory for the work.