

"Gaining Something That Can Never Be Lost"

1. Here is Jesus teaching through contrast.

Martha	Mary
Service	Worship
Distracted	Single-minded
Many things	One thing

2. "Sitting at His feet listening to His Word" is a position of reverence and worship. Others who fell at His feet included "the lame, crippled, blind and dumb" (Mt. 15:30), Jairus whose daughter was dying (Mk. 5:22), the Syro-Phoenecian mother whose daughter was demonized (Mk. 7:25), the sinful woman who washed His feet with her tears (Lk. 7:37), the man possessed by a legion of demons (Lk. 8:35), this same Mary after her brother Lazarus had died (John 11:32) and the apostle John on the isle of Patmos receiving the revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:17). **Worship must come before service.** You had better listen before you speak.
3. **"One thing"** can serve to remind us of: Psa. 27:4 "one thing I desire", Mk. 10:21 "one thing you lack", John 3:27 "no one can receive even one thing", John 9:25 "one thing I know", Acts 24:21 "I cried out this one thing", Phil. 1:13 "this one thing I do."
4. Mary has no speaking part. Do you suppose "Martha, Martha" immediately took off her apron and sat down?
5. What if you heard today, "Your multi-tasking is unnecessary"?
6. "Lord, do You not care...?" **Distractions caused discontent** with others in the family and finding fault in one that she loved. "The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded ("sober") and self-controlled so that you can pray." (1Pet. 4:7 NIV)
7. **Distractions cause confusion of roles which leads to disharmony.** "I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord." (1Co 7:35) The situation described in Acts 6 is a case in point.
8. **What did Jesus "need" the most?** As God in His divine nature, nothing. But as being fully man? He needed a good meal. Yes, but... He had food to eat His disciples "knew nothing about" (John 4:32). "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). Why did He request, "Please stay awake and pray with Me, just one hour?"
9. He needed to some degree someone who could understand the lonely nature of "the work" He was sent to do. Did Mary understand? Could she comprehend this, even when His own disciples didn't "get it?" Evidently, she did understand with a kindred spirit as she demonstrates in the account of John 12:1-8. (Judas was of another category.) Do you have such a friend?
10. **Is there really something that I can choose which will never be lost?** You mean I could keep it forever? I thought "naked I came and naked I will go."
11. "Yes," says Jesus. **Mary not only chose it, but her choice proves it!** She became part of the record which, unlike the grass that perishes and the flowers that fall, will last forever. (Isa. 40:8; 1 John 2:17)
12. **What a treasure is human free will! What rewards right choices can bring!**