

“One Thing Is Needful!”
Luke 10:38-42

Introduction:

1. Read Luke 10:38-42
2. In Vs. 38, We Read Of A Journey That Christ And His Disciples Took:
 - This Was A Deliberate Journey With A Specific Destination
 - Seen In “A Certain Village” & “A Certain Woman”
 - He Came, Not By Mistake Or Accident, But With Purpose!
 - This Was An Opportunity:
 - For Christ To Show His Love For His Friends
 - Martha, Mary & Lazarus
 - For His Friends To Show Their Love For Him
 - This **IS** An Opportunity:
 - To Teach Us A Very Important Lesson Through This Divinely Appointed & Recorded Meeting!
3. This Lesson Is Given To Us By The Lord In Vs. 42:
 - **“One Thing Is Needful!”**
4. Just Like It Was No Accident For Christ And His Disciples To Enter “Into A Certain Village” & Be Met By “A Certain Woman”
 - Your Being Here This Evening Is Not By Accident!
 - You Are Here For A Distinct Purpose – This Message Is For You!
 - What We Looked At This Morning Was That The Lord Has Provided Everything We Need In Order For Us To Produce Fruit!
 - We Must “Abide In The Vine” In Order For Him To Do His Work In & Through Us!
 - What We Are About To Look At Tonight Helps Us To Understand What It Means To “Abide In Christ!”
 - So That We Can Bear The Fruit That He Desires!
5. So Just What Is This One Thing That Is Needful?
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Needed A Single, Specific, Special Part To Make Something Work? When I Went On A Missions Trip To Scotland, I Took Along My Electric Razor - Didn’t Realize That My Power Cord Would Not Fit Their Power Outlets - I Needed A Single, Specific, Special Adapter To Make It Work! Only That One Adapter Would Do It – That Was The One Thing That Was Needful For My Shaver!
 - What About Our Life As Christians? Just What Is That One Thing That Is Needful?

1. Is It Enthusiastically Welcoming The Lord?

- v. 38 - “And A Certain Woman Named Martha Received Him Into Her House.”
 - It May Have Been A **Surprise Visit** (To Martha) - Picture Jesus Coming To Her Door, And Martha Is Surprised At His Coming, And Is Excited To See Him (Because She Loved Him & Knew He Loved Her!)
 - May Have Been An **Anticipated Visit** - Picture Her Eager Anticipation Of His Arrival Into Bethany, Preparing The House For This Special Guest (Because She Loved Him & Knew He Loved Her!)
 - Don’t Know, But Martha Readily **“Received Him Into Her House!”**
- “Received” - To Welcome With Open Arms! (υπεδεξατο)
 - It Was A Pleasing Welcome!
 - What Great Joy It Must Have Brought Her To See Jesus & Invite Him Into Her House!
 - What Great Joy It Must Have Brought Jesus To Have Someone Welcome Him So Readily! An Opportunity To Be Refreshed & Enjoy His Friends!
 - It Was A Proper Welcome!
 - It Was Only Proper & Fitting For Martha To Welcome Jesus The Christ In The Best Possible Way!
 - It Was A Practical Welcome!
 - After His Arrival, Martha Immediately Sought To Serve (Seen In Vs. 40) – Probably To

Arrange:

- Where He Would Sleep
- What He Would Eat
- What He Could Do While He Was There
- She Wanted To Be Able To Meet Any Of The Practical Needs He Might Have!
- It Was A Polite Welcome!
 - She Was Very Considerate Of Her Special Guest!
 - She Was The Perfect Hostess On This Occassion!
- ***But Was This Enthusiastic Welcome Of The Lord The One Thing That Was Needful?***
 - It Was A Pleasing, Proper, Practical, Polite Welcome
 - But It Was NOT The One Thing That Was Needful!
- What Is The ***One Thing*** That Is Needful In Your Life?
 - It Is ***Not*** Your Enthusiasm For Christ!
 - Without The “One Thing That Is Needful,” Your Enthusiasm Will Be Powerless & Temporary
- So What Is That One Thing That Is Needful?

2. ***Is It Submissively Listening To The Lord?***

- vs. 39 - “And She Had A Sister Called Mary, Which Also Sat At Jesus’ Feet, And Heard His Word.”
 - **IE:** Different Types Of Welcomes - Formal Welcome For VIP’s - Polite Welcome For Acquaintances - Personal & Warm Welcome For Family & Friends
 - Martha “Received” Him In A Polite, Physical Way
 - Mary “Received” Him In A Personal, Spiritual Way
 - Mary “***Sat At Jesus’ Feet!***”
- “Sat” - To Sit Closely
 - **IE:** Telling A Story To Children - Sit Up Close With Careful Attention - Getting As Close To The Story Book & Story Teller As They Can
 - This Was A Place Of Love!
 - Love Brought Her To The Feet Of Jesus!
 - His Love For Her – Her Love For Him!
 - Love Brought Her To The Feet Of Jesus Another Time – John 11:2 - “(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)”
 - This Was A Place Of Submission!
 - Submission To His Authority
 - She Was His Servant!
 - Submission To His Teaching
 - She Was His Student!
 - This Was A Place Of Listening!
 - “Heard”
 - She Was Where She Could Hear
 - To Give An Audience
 - She Was Interested In What She Could Hear
 - To Understand What Is Heard
 - This Was A Place Of Learning!
 - “His Word”
 - First & Foremost – It Was Jesus’ Message!
 - It Was Jesus’ Message To Her
 - It Was Jesus’ Message About Himself
- ***So Was This Submissive Listening To The Lord The One Thing That Was Needful?***
 - It Was A Place Of Love, Submission, Listening & Learning
 - It ***WAS*** The One Thing That Was Needful!
- vs. 42 - “But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part!”
 - ***It Was A Close RELATIONSHIP With The Lord!***
- What Is The ***One Thing*** That Is Needful In Your Life?
 - It Is A ***Relationship*** With Christ!

- Marked By True & Continuous Love, Submission, Listening & Learning!
- A Relationship Of Abiding In Christ!
- Without The “One Thing That Is Needful,” Your Christian Life & Ministry Will Be Powerless!
- In Fact, If You Want To Love Like Christ, You Must Spend Time With Christ!
- Is This The **ONE THING** In Your Life?
 - First In Priority
 - First In Time
 - First In Effort
- Martha Saw Mary Experiencing The One Thing That Was Needful, But She Still Did Not Understand – She Wondered If The One Thing That Was Needful Was:

3. ***(Is It) Energetically Serving The Lord?***

- vs. 40 - “But Martha was cumbered about much serving.”
 - She Was Busy With Serving
 - She Was Distracted From Listening
 - She Was Upset With Her Sister - “and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.”
- “Serving”
 - Martha Thought Her Service Was Most Important
 - In Reality, She Was Distracted From What Was Most Important (“Cumbered”)
 - Martha Thought She Was Caring For Her Lord’s Needs
 - In Reality, She Was Focused On Her Own Interests
 - “Careful” - Anxious & Worried - This Happens When You Are Focused On & Frustrated In Something That Is Less Than The One Thing That Is Needful!
 - Martha Thought She Was Putting Things In Order
 - In Reality, She Was “Troubled”
 - Turbazo - English Turbulent
 - In Her Mind, Her Attitude
 - In Her Actions (“Busy-Body”)
 - Martha Thought That “Many Things” Needed To Be Done
 - In Reality, Only “One Thing Is Needful!”
- ***This Energetic Serving Of The Lord Was Not The One Thing That Was Needful!***
 - Service Was Not & Is Not The “One Thing!”
 - Service Often Distracts Us From The “One Thing!”
- What Is The **One Thing** That Is Needful In Your Life?
 - It Is **Not** Your Service For Christ!
 - Without The “One Thing That Is Needful,” Your Service Will Be Powerless & Temporary
 - It Is That Close Relationship With The Lord!
 - Feeding Off His Word!

Conclusion:

1. “One Thing Is Needful!”
 - Jesus Commends Mary - vs. 42 - “Mary Hath Chosen”
2. When You Choose It:
 - It Will Be Priceless! (“Good” - In Quality - Best Thing!)
 - It Will Be Permanent! (“Which Shall Not Be Taken Away From Her”)
3. In Your Life As A Christian, “One Thing Is Needful!”
 - What Has Been The “One Thing” For You?
 - Enthusiasm?
 - Serving?
 - Listening?
 - Without The Relationship – The Listening, Your Enthusiasm & Service Will Be Powerless & Temporary (**IE:** Like Missing The Power Cord For My Electric Razor)
4. Reread Luke 10:38-42

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