

Title: THE ONE THING, LUKE 10:38-42
(Chatham, NJ; 07/21/13, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: When Jesus tells Martha that “one thing is necessary,” he refers to the necessity of tending to spiritual matters and seeking after God.

Purpose: To keep our lives focused on salvation and spiritual health.

Introduction:

1. Remember radios where you had to turn the knob to tune?
2. With digital tuning a radio tunes immediately to the station without the noise and clutter associated with older tuners.
3. Our spiritual tuners must behave the same way; we have to focus on what is necessary and tune out what is unnecessary.

I. The One Necessary Thing, Luke 10:38-42

A. A snapshot of two women

1. At Mary and Martha's house – Lazarus' sisters
2. Martha was “distracted with much serving”
3. Jesus says “You are anxious and troubled about many things”
4. Mary sat and listened to Jesus
5. Jesus says “she has chosen the good portion” or what is best
6. Martha is not devoid of faith, John 11:22, 24, 27 (not the words of faithlessness)
7. Even good people have to make daily choices as to what is most important

B. Choosing not to be distracted

1. Acedia – laziness toward spiritual matters
2. A mark of human sinfulness
3. Distractions are a mark of our age today
4. Even good things become evil when they distract us from spiritual things
5. Tending the garden of our souls can be difficult work
6. We must choose what is best at any given time
7. What is the most important thing?

II. One Person Has Preeminence, Col. 1:18

A. A snapshot of Christ (Col. 1:15-18)

1. He is the image of God, 15 – fullness of God, 19 (2:9)
2. Firstborn over creation – denotes preeminence, not a created being
3. Created all things, 16 – John 1:1-4 similarly
4. Sustains all things, 17
5. The head of the church, 18
6. Firstborn from the dead, 18
7. He is preeminent

B. How we make him preeminent for ourselves

1. The early church confessed, “Jesus is Lord”
2. Obedience demonstrates love and loyalty, John 14:15 & 21
3. Keeping his word leads to fellowship with Him and the Father, Jn. 14:23
4. Considering the picture in Col. 1 we have every reason to make him preeminent over our lives

III. The One Goal

A. A singular focus

1. The salvation of our souls, 1 Peter 1:9
2. Peter calls it the outcome of our faith
3. When all things work together for our good, this is the reason
4. Col. 1:21-22 – the whole point of the Gospel is reconciliation with God
5. For this purpose we believe the Gospel and for the ultimate salvation of our souls do we remain faithful to it
6. All other priorities pale by comparison

B. Nothing else matters

1. The children in Narnia are given instructions for their mission (quoted in World, 7/27/13, 71)
2. The signs for us are the Scriptures
3. The importance of knowing the signs is only as high as tending to our thoughts in relation to them

Conclusions:

1. Resist the impulse to ignore spiritual matters.
2. Resist the message that there is another Lord of heaven and earth.
3. Resist the temptation to put your salvation on hold as you pursue “other things.”
4. There is nothing more important than reconciliation with God.
5. Paul reminds the Colossian church how it began for them, Col. 2:11-14.
6. He also encourages them to remain faithful, 1:23.
7. Don't ever lose your focus on the one thing necessary.