

Message



One Thing
Is Needful

Neal Parker

One Thing Is Needful

■ Luke 10:38-42

- This is the Martha and Mary from John 11 & 12
- They are the sisters of Lazarus; the man Jesus resurrected from the dead
- *"...You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed..."*
- The key question is, What is this 'one thing' that is so necessary? *One thing is needful.*



One Thing Is Needful

■ Luke 10:38-42

- *"...Martha, Martha, you are ... troubled about many things."*
- **'Troubled (turbazo)' means to be 'pulled away by something'**
 - **Implies that Martha's attention was drawn away by the burden of her duties.**
 - **Mary chose the "one thing" that counts.**



One Thing Is Needful

■ Interpretations of this Passage

- Active vs Contemplative Life
- Present World vs World to Come
- Judaism vs Christianity
- Justification by Works vs Justification by Faith
- Being Distracted vs Being One



One Thing Is Needful

■ Luke 18:18-27

- "...What shall I do to inherit eternal life...?"
- "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me..."
- Jesus perceived that his wealth was an area of weakness and so told him that it was his money that was standing in the way of his reaching eternal life.





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■ Luke 18:18-27

- Wealth, not God, occupies a central place in his life.
- What this person lacks therefore is an undivided loyalty to God.
- The “one thing” that is lacking is the readiness to renounce, for the sake of the kingdom of God, whatever it should prove necessary to renounce.



One Thing Is Needful

■ Luke 9:57-62

- What does it mean to be fit for the kingdom?
- To be fit means very basically that you have the kind of quality which is desired or needed in a particular context.
- Matthew 5:13 – "... salt which has lost its taste is not fit for anything but to be thrown out and trampled by men."



One Thing Is Needful

■ Luke 9:57-62

- Metaphor that refers to plowing with the eyes ahead so that one plows a straight furrow. **It is a picture of total dedication to a task.**
- To be fit for the kingdom therefore means to be **totally committed.**
- **It means to have that 'one thing.'**



One Thing Is Needful

■ Matthew 6:19-24

- The word 'single' here means 'steady, devoted to one object.'
- If the heart of a person is single in its love toward God, if it is focused on the things of God, then it has clear views as to the relative value of earthy things and heavenly things.



One Thing Is Needful

■ **Philippians 3:13-14**

- “...but this one thing I do...”
- He forgot his past with all its credentials and accomplishments (and shortcomings). And now, like a runner in a race, with his whole body reaching for the finish line, he is pressing on toward the goal.



Application to Life

■ Deuteronomy 6:4-9

■ Psalm 86:11-12

■ Luke 10:38-42

- ✓ *"...You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed..."*
- ✓ **The key question is, What is this 'one thing' that is so necessary?**
- ✓ **A fact of life is that multiple demands capture us and this can fragment our attention.**
- ✓ **The quality of singleness of vision on the things of God is the 'one thing' is needful**