

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1476

June 4, 2023

Luke 10:42, “*But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*”

The only time Jesus used the word “needful” is in the above passage. In the event in this chapter, Jesus is at the house of Martha. Like many women preparing for a visitor, she is busy with things in the house. She is concerned about serving and that she is having to serve alone. Her sister Mary was there, but was doing something else.

Verse 39 tells us regarding Martha and her sister Mary, “*And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*” In just the previous verse Jesus had entered the house, and before serving was made, Mary was already sitting at the feet of Jesus hearing His word. There are many lessons we can glean from these verses.

1. Mary started listening quickly. Sometime between Jesus entering the house and serving began, Mary was already sitting at the feet of Jesus hearing His word. She didn’t wait until the meal or until they were relaxing afterwards. She took advantage of the LORD being there by sitting at His feet early.

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Sunday 9 AM & 5 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

We too need to seek the LORD and His word early. Ecclesiastes 12:1, “*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.*” If we don’t remember the LORD and hear His word early in life, there will come a time of no interest in such.

That doesn’t mean it’s impossible for an older person to come to the LORD. They can. But it becomes much harder as the pressures of life and the frailty of age comes. When we start as early as possible, the word of God becomes ingrained in us and becomes part of us.

2. Martha was cumbered. The passage tells us that Martha was cumbered with much serving. I know all are familiar with huge meals and how much preparation goes into them. You not only want to make it bountiful, but want everything just right. That is especially the case when there is an honored guest. Mary and Martha could have no more honored guest than Jesus. No doubt Martha wanted this meal to be perfect.

The Greek word for cumbered means to be overly occupied or too busy. Though it’s certainly a commendable thing to want to do anything well, there are more important things than the care of preparing meals and making sure all is well. Martha was so cumbered with this that she was disturbed that Mary was not helping her. Martha even asked Jesus if He didn’t care that Mary was not helping.

3. Troubled about many things. When Jesus answered Martha, He called her name twice, no doubt drawing close attention to her. Jesus said that she was careful and troubled about many things. It was very possibly not just this visit and the preparation that was concerning her. Perhaps she was always like this and often troubled with the things of this life. Those things might not be wrong in and of themselves, but there is one thing more important to focus on.

4. One thing is needful. Jesus told Martha one thing is needful. He told her this right after telling her she was troubled about many

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News

—Continue to remember **Alice Vanderstoep, Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Rachel Riffle, Ellie Riffle, Linda Terry, Ken & Erin Davis, Larry Compton and Clay Bozarth.** **Jerry Edwards** has been quite sick this past week. **Alice Vanderstoep** is recovering from surgery.

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things. There are many things in this life that can pull at us and demand our time and pull us away from the LORD. Of all the things we can do, only one is needful. That is obeying the LORD.

To prepare and serve was not wrong, but Martha was cumbered by it, and that was keeping her from hearing what the LORD had to say. We can easily let the things of this world keep us from the LORD or pull us from Him. There is so much we can do in this life, but only one thing is needful. A few years ago so many activities were canceled due to Covid—sporting events, movie production, travel, school events, etc. Were they even needful to being with? We have obviously seen we can do without them. We cannot do without the LORD and His word. One thing is needful.

5. That good part, which shall not be taken away. Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away. To choose the LORD and His word is the good part of what is available to choose. There is only one good part—the word of God.

Of all the other things to choose, when we choose the word of God, that will not be taken away. Anything that Martha did toward serving food that day would soon be over and done. What Mary chose is eternal.

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Sunday, May 28, 2023		
Classes	6	Mark 9:42-50
Preaching	12	Matthew 26:13
Contribution	\$1220.00	
Evening	7	Micah 4:1-5:15

Wednesday, May 31, 2023		
Classes	14	I Timothy 2:1-15

Bible Quiz

The mountain of the house of the LORD
was to be established where?

Last Week's Answer—Zion (Micah 3:12)

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The word she was receiving would be with her forever. It could not be taken away—ever.

Though we do other things in this life, most, if not all of them are optional. The word of God is not. Choose it, and with that choice you have chosen eternal life.

—Marty Edwards♦

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)