

One Thing Is Necessary

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 10:38-42



Big Idea

A personal, ongoing relationship with Jesus is the *one necessary thing*. When we get this, everything else falls into line. When we don't, everything else falls apart.

This text is about Jesus and where He stands in your life. Where is He in your life, right now, today? Or, perhaps, more to the point: Where are you, in relation to Him? Are you with Martha, running around Him, moving here and there, perhaps even serving Jesus but not truly engaging with Him; or are you with Mary?

(1) The Necessity of It

Necessary with Reference to Our Salvation: If we look at what Jesus says to Martha, it might at first seem a bit troubling: “Why is He not grateful? Give her a break, man. She’s cooking you dinner.” (I wouldn’t dare try this sort of thing with Megan at home.) But, when we really stop to consider these things, this is truly the most comforting thing He could ever say. He is saying, in essence: “More important than you serving Me is Me serving you.” And there you have the essence of the gospel.

Necessary with Reference to Our Success: Though we wouldn’t say it, often we live as if Jesus is really only relevant for our entrance into heaven, for the day when we leave this world. We don’t realize how essential, how *necessary* our relationship with Him is for everyday life here and now. Throughout the Scriptures, God is always calling His people to put Him before everyday stuff, not because everyday stuff doesn’t matter, but because He’s the One who will take care of it for us. He doesn’t just care about your salvation He cares about your day to day.

(2) The Neglect of It

When a person wanders from this one necessary thing, stuff starts to go awry. We see this with Martha.

- With regard to her own heart, she is “*distracted* with much serving” (v. 40) and she is “*anxious and troubled* about many things” (v. 41).
- But this stuff doesn’t just stop at your own heart. It starts to spill out into your relationships with other people. You see this in v. 40 there: “[M]y *sister* has left me to serve alone . . .” When you are not surrendered and satisfied in Christ, you become critical and antagonistic towards others.
- Perhaps the most startling thing is what this neglect does to our relationship with God. Notice her accusations of Jesus here. Again, in v. 40: “[S]he went up to him and said, ‘Lord, do *you* not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’” In other words: “This is happening to me, because you’re failing to act.”

Reflection Questions



- Describe the last time you felt distracted, anxious, or troubled. Before this sermon, what would you have pointed to as the reason for feeling this way? How do you think spending time at Jesus’ feet would help?
- Mary could physically sit at Jesus’ feet and see His face and hear His voice. For us it is now something a bit different. What do you find most difficult or confusing about spending time alone with Jesus? How do you even do it? What does it look like?
- Do you think Jesus is saying here that work is not important? In light of this text, where do you think serving Him fits into the Christian life? Use Scripture to support your answer.