



ONE THING: From Many to One

MAIN SCRIPTURE

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me?" But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details. There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)

WARM UP

- What stood out to you from the message? (story, thought, Scripture, etc.)
- What types of "many things" do you typically find yourself thinking or worrying about through the week? When you think about trading in the many things for one thing (Prioritizing Jesus), how does it make you feel?

Thought #1 – Moving from many to one means prioritizing Jesus.

Verses: Luke 10:39-40a, Luke 10:27

- Pastor John said that anytime a person chooses to be present with another person, that is an act of love.

- Tell Your Story: Tell of a time in your life when someone showed love to you by focusing their time and attention on you when you really needed it. In what ways did this help you?
- Pastor John explained that the portion of scripture called "The Greatest Commandment" (Luke 10:27) introduces the story of Mary and Martha. The Great Commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
 - In your opinion, how did Mary follow the Great Commandment?
 - Why do you think Jesus commends Mary for these chosen behaviors?

Thought # 2 – When we prioritize the one (Jesus), the many concerns find their rightful place.

Verses: Matthew 6:33

- When Pastor John was taking a class on spiritual formation, a teacher encouraged the class to love God by praying this simple prayer, "God, help me love you for the next 10 minutes".
 - In your opinion, what difference would it have made if Martha had joined Mary at the feet of Jesus for the first 10 minutes?
 - In your experience, what difference does it make when you choose to prioritize Jesus throughout your day?
- Pastor John said, "When we put God first, when we make him our one concern...all the other things begin to fall into place."
 - Why do you think the regular choice we make of prioritizing Jesus, even for 10 minutes, leads to a more ordered life?
 - In very practical ways, what would it look like for you to prioritize Jesus throughout the day? Perhaps share

ways that you are presently prioritizing Him.

Thought #3 – Moving from many to one requires us to be focused and takes courage.

Verses: Colossians 3:2, Romans 12:2a

- Pastor John shared that moving from many to one requires focus, but also a great deal of courage, courage to stand out from the regular patterns of this world.
 - Why do you think courage is required when one decides to stand out from the patterns of this world?
 - Tell Your Story: Tell of a time in your life when the Lord gave you courage to stand against the patterns of the world.

Thought #4 – Moving from the “many things” to “one thing” is a recurring pattern.

- Pastor John said, “There’s a whole lot of life that I haven’t lived yet, but I’m confident of this – that Jesus will continue to invite me to trade the many concerns for the one concern of being present with him.”
 - In what areas of your life do you feel like Jesus is inviting you to prioritize him?
 - How do you think you could respond to this invitation regularly?
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would embolden your group with purpose and courage as members seek to prioritize Jesus this week.

Challenge – As a group, decide to embark on the great “10-Minutes Experiment” by prioritizing Jesus throughout each day. When you return next week, share your experience!

Questions? Email me at:

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