

Introductory Texts: Matthew 21:12-27

(Key Verse) 24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you **one thing**, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Luke 6:9

Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you **one thing**; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

Luke 20:1-9

And it came to pass, *that* on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon *him* with the elders, 2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority? 3 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you **one thing**; and answer me: 4 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? 5 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? 6 But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. 7 And they answered, that they could not tell whence *it was*. 8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things. 9 Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

Background Observation:

3 different times (above) Jesus used the phrase “*one thing*” when addressing his adversaries.

I want to examine that phrase tonight in various places in the Bible and expound on the impact of each statement.

Individual Texts: Mark 10:21; John 9:25; Luke 10:42; Ps. 27:4; Php. 3:13; 2 Pet. 3:8; (**Daniel we will look at these one at a time with each main point**)

Introduction:

- When these *six statements* are grouped together, we can see a **sequence of thought**, which pictures the entire scope of the Christian life!
- Let's get started now...

I want to preach on the subject,

“The Importance of ‘One Thing!’”

- 1.) **“One thing thou Lackest” - Mark 10:21** - Jesus/Rich young Ruler

Mark 10:21 (KJV)

²¹ Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.**

- This illustrious young man possessed everything except *that* which mattered the most!
- His *home* was filled with valuables while his *soul* remained poor!

A young man comes to Jesus, hears the way of salvation, and he turns away to leave as lost as he came.

As far as we know, this young man went to Hell with Heaven on his mind.

II.) **“One thing I Know” - John 9:25** - The young man born blind

John 9:25 (KJV)

²⁵ He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

I believe that the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ is something to get excited about, don't you?

[**Truths**] There are three things about Jesus, the Light of the World that this story reveals...

A. **Jesus Is the Shining Light – John 9:5**

When He walked upon this earth, Jesus was in the business of delivering men from *darkness*.

John 9:5 (KJV)

⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

He is still a Shining Light and a Savior to all who will come to Him - Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17.

B. **Jesus Is the Seeking Light – John 9:35**

John 9:35 (KJV)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, **Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**

After the Jews had cast out this man, Jesus went looking for Him. Therefore, He came - Luke 19:10.

C. **Jesus Is the Saving Light – John 9:38**

John 9:38 (KJV)

³⁸ And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

When he called on the name of Jesus, He was eternally saved and received into a family from which he will never be removed!

We should be like this man and not be *ashamed* to shout it out to others what Jesus has done (and does) for us!

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Matthew 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. **33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

III.) **“One thing is Needful” - Luke 10:42** - Mary / Martha with Jesus

Luke 10:42 (KJV)

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

- The charming home in Bethany had suddenly become a place of strain!
- The atmosphere was tense, and it seemed to be very likely, a first-class quarrel.
- It just seems to me that some people have learned to abide at the feet of Jesus as they go through life and this translates into peace of heart, power of life and purpose before God.

I want that kind of life for myself! How about you?

IV.) **“One thing have I Desired” - Psalm 27:4** - David

Psalm 27:4 (KJV)

⁴One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

- David's soul was like a ship at sea drifting on turbulent waters!
- Where could he find security?
- Where could the yearnings of his soul be fully satisfied?

When he instinctively turned toward the sanctuary, he cried verse 4! (cf. Exo. 25:8-Heb.10:25)

- Now, I know that the true House of God is Heaven and that His true Tabernacle now is the heart of the believer.
- However, the visible symbol of both these things is the church.
- When the saints of God gather themselves together to worship the Lord in Spirit and truth, there is nothing on this earth that is any closer to Heaven than that!
- This place in which we gather is a place dedicated to the worship and glory of God.
- The things that made the Tabernacle special to David ought to be the same things that make the church special to us this morning!

V.) **"One thing I do"** - **Php. 3:13** - Paul's aim and goal in life

- We talked about this last Sunday morning but let be just briefly look at it again...

Philippians 3:13 (KJV)

¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

- It is far better to have **ONE** aim in life, and to achieve an ambition, than to attempt *innumerable* things and miss them all!
- Paul never permitted interference with the realization of his greatest ambitions, and ultimately at the end of his life he was able to say, "*I have finished my course.*"

Check out this next verse which is a statement Paul made earlier in his life...

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Does this match your attitude of what the Christian life is supposed to be?

VI.) **"Be not ignorant of this one thing"** – **II Peter 3:8** – Peter's admonition concerning the second coming of Christ!

2 Peter 3:8 (KJV)

⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

There aren't too many things in this world that you can count on...

- The stock markets have their ups and downs.
- The economy could be doing better.
- The prospects for peace in the world are about as distant as they have ever been.

- Preachers, churches, and ministries are continually straying away from the Lord and causing confusion and doubt.

In fact, if you live with your faith in men, ministries, and money then you are going to live a very disappointing and discouraging life.

Yet, even during all the doubts and confusion that surrounds us in the world today, there are still some things you can believe in.

I am holding one of those things in my hands today...

The **Bible**, the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of the living God.

This book is pure, and it is worthy of our faith and acceptance.

Every word in this book will come to pass just as it is written. And this includes every promise of God.

Every promise God gave in His Word is worthy to be believed for it will come to pass just as He said, **Heb. 6:18**.

Hebrews 6:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Think of what this means.

- When He promised to save you if you called upon Him, **Rom. 10:13**, He meant that!
- When He promised to be with you, **Heb. 13:5**, He meant that.
- When He promised to take care of you as you passed through this world, **Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:25-34**, He meant that.
- And, as Peter is telling us, when the Lord promised to come back again, He meant that too!

Take, for instance, the last recorded promise in the Bible from the lips of the Lord Jesus...

Rev. 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

In this verse, Jesus makes it crystal clear that He is going to return to this world.

Many people refuse to accept this truth as fact, but that doesn't change a thing!

Jesus said that He was coming again, and He will!

Jesus is coming, and you can take that to the bank.

Conclusion:

- To a traveler, one guiding star is better than a million comets that have no meaning!
- Have a *purpose* in life!
- Does your life testify of these **six** thoughts?
- If any **one of these things** has convicted you today, would you come and pray to the Lord and get it settled?
- Come now!

Invitation Hymn: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

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