



## The One Thing Necessary

### Luke 10:38-42

How will you steward the 3 'T's God has given you?

- 1) Time
- 2) Talent
- 3) Treasures

Luke's Gospel – One of its features is Jesus' concern for the lost & marginalized

- For women, who were treated as second-class in those days (Luke 7:36-50, 8:1-3)
- For the Samaritans (9:51-56, 10:30-37, 17:11-19)
- For Gentiles (Luke 7:1-9).

The Context:

Today's passage is in the middle of 3 passages dealing with how we truly love God and neighbour:

- 1) Through caring for the 'other', the stranger (10:25-37);
- 2) By listening to God as a priority (10:38-42) and
- 3) By praying with persistent faith. (11:1-13).

MAIN POINT:

Anything that stops or prevents you from giving your full attention to Jesus, is dangerous.

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*"Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes away your relish for spiritual things, in short, whatever increases the authority of the flesh over the spirit, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself."*

*Susanna Wesley*

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The Text:

- Vs 38 – Jesus entered a village (Bethany). Martha, Mary and Lazarus were supporters of Jesus (John 11:1-2, 12:3).
- Vs 39 – Mary "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching."  
→ "Sat at His feet" – the position of a student before his rabbi (Luke 8:5; Acts 22:3). Typically reserved for men.

*"Jesus' ministry breaks molds. Those who are sensitive to him recognize that he invites them to come to him. They sense that he will receive them, that he is ready to teach all types of people. In the early church, women are noted for their service: Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2), Priscilla (Rom. 16:3), Lydia (Acts 16:14-15), and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9)."*

Darrell Bock, *Luke: 2 Volumes; Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1984), pg 551.

- Vs 40 – Martha was distracted, and complaining. “Don’t you care...tell her to help me.”
- Vs 41 - Jesus answered her tenderly: “You are anxious and troubled about many things...”
- Vs 42 - “But one thing is necessary. Mary has chose the better portion...”  
She was feeding on His Word (Luke 4:4, Deut. 8:3, John 6:35).

"The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot." (Psalm 16:5)

#### APPLICATION

- ✓ Being Vs Doing – A balance between silence and service, of reflection and action.
- ✓ Retreats and rest (sabbath) – but how do you make space in a busy life?
- ✓ Get up early – or find 10-30 minutes in your schedule daily.
- ✓ Make sure you are still in God’s present, read His word systematically (follow a plan) and pray for yourself and for others.