

*Jesus Says...*

**Luke 10:38-42**

**Only One Thing Is Needed**

*Sitting at His feet, listening to His Word*

*Only One Thing Is Needed* – Luke 10:38-42

## Bringing the Text to Light

- **The Scene** (vs. 38-39)
  - *Now as they went on their way...*
    - What those on the spiritual journey with Jesus need to know: what devotion to God looks like
  - *He entered a village.*
    - Bethany – where Jesus was frequently welcomed by people He was close to.
  - *Martha ... and Mary*
    - Beloved, devoted friends – different in personality but united in their love for Him and His for them

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## Bringing the Text to Light

- **The Scene** (vs. 38-39)
- **Conversation: Martha and Jesus** (vs. 40-41)
  - *Martha went up and said...*
    - A Type-A, firstborn!
    - You always knew where you stood with her...  
(see John 11:21, 39; Luke 10:40)
  - *Martha was distracted...*
    - Lit. ‘pulled away or around’, pulled in a different direction
    - Distracted from *being* with Jesus by *doing* for Jesus.
  - *Jesus’ gentle rebuke*
    - An expression of warmth and love
    - Urging undivided devotion to God  
(see I Cor 7:32-35)

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### **Bringing the Text to Light**

- **The Scene** (vs. 38-39)
- **Conversation: Martha and Jesus** (vs. 40-41)
- **The Point: only one thing is needed** (vs. 42)
  - Many (good) things getting in the way of the one (best) thing.
  - Something lacking ...
  - *Only one thing is essential and Mary has chosen it – it's the main course...* (The Message)
  - *Mary took the opportunity to hear words of life from the lips of Jesus; that was more important than taking care of the dishes. Martha should have dropped everything too...  
The main business of our lives: a commitment of abandonment to be at the feet of Christ.*

(R.C. Sproul)

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## Bringing the Text to Light

## Applying the Text to Life

- Am I a *human being* or a *human doing*?
- God desires my *presence* more than my *activities*, and prefers my *company* over my *service*.
- God Himself is my ‘portion’ – forever!
  - See Ps 16:5; 73:26; 119:57; 142:5 etc.
  - He is my one ‘unalienable right’ that shall not be taken from me; my one guaranteed possession.

*One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.*

Ps. 27:4