“But One Thing Is Needful…”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Dr Joshua Smith
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding that “continuing in the word” means identifying and eliminating distractions that can hinder the believer from giving and keeping God and his word first priority in our lives.

Life Group Leader Lesson Preparation:
Luke 10:38-42 (NKJV)

Our relationship with Jesus is priority for believers
- Martha welcomed Jesus into her house, but was distracted from him with much serving.
- Mary was not distracted and sat at his feet and heard his word.

Distractions can cause us to worry and find ourselves annoyed; it becomes difficult to pay attention or keep “first things first”. Mary and Martha is a classic example of choosing that which is good and that which is not good at the time.
- Pandemic –
- Lose of income, job, home
- Change in health

Each lesson is connected and urges us to remember: As we continue to focus on Jesus the person and learning from what he has said to us, his church. We will continue to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of His Word.....
**WEEK 1 – Choosing That Good Part (Luke 10:38-42)**

Discussion Question: Martha and Mary went to Jesus for different reasons…share times you have identified with both of these women who loved Jesus. Share your outcome.

**Martha** – murmuring, fault finding, impatient, cares of the world.
- thinking only of herself when she asked Jesus – Don’t you care about me doing all this work alone?
- When and Why have you been stressed out and chose to complain whether than go to Jesus for help?
- Phil 2:4 – Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

**Mary** – wise choice, commended by Jesus
- Ruth 1:16 – And Ruth said, entreat me not to leave, or return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God shall be my God.

1. 1 Corinthians 7:35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible. (NLT)

2. Mark 4:19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. (NLT)

**WEEK 2 – BUSY? Or Serving God?**

Discussion Question: Martha was busy and distracted. Mary sat at his feet (and listened).

Being Under Satan’s Yoke

Matthew 13:22 – Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. NKJV

Satan is looking for ways to distract us in any way possible.
1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

But Remember
James 4:7 So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Sometimes we need to stop! and go to a quiet place to hear God.
Mark 6:31 Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat.

Because every day is a new day, we must make a conscious decision to order or where appropriate re-order our steps to put God first in our life for that day.

The question that you must answer today is what part will you choose.
Matthew 22:36-40
“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (NKJV)

We follow Jesus daily
• Our commitment to God is not a one time decision, but a daily one.

“When ye pray, say, our Father... give us day by day our daily bread.” Luke 11:1-3 (KJV)
• Acts 17:11 – These were more noble than those in Thessalonica. In that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searche the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

We keep God first by making him first every day of our lives
• Now, how do we do this?

1. You plan every day of your life.
2. You make all commitments in light of your “God first” priorities.
3. You guard your time with God
4. You never sacrifice receiving from Jesus over serving Jesus.
WEEK 3 – Forgetting Those Things Which Are Behind

Discussion Question: Discuss as a group some of the common things that hold us back from choosing the needful thing.

We have to let go of our past hindrances and distractions.

“I don’t mean to say I am perfect. I haven’t learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.” – Philippians 3:12-14

COME TO HIM

Remember God accepts us as we are, flaws and all.

Matt 11:28-30

Jesus taught the multitudes:

• “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”
• “Learn of me and you shall find a rest unto your souls”

Isaiah 53:3-4

• Jesus was despised and rejected; he was acquainted with our grief; he also bore our griefs and carried our sorrows.

Hebrews 4:15-16

• For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Romans 8:37 – Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors…..

• The choice to put God first will cause me to know him as my helper and know that Jesus can identify with my weaknesses and inabilities and cause me to be victorious in all things especially when I choose the one thing that is needful.
WEEK 4 – Take Personal Inventory of your spiritual growth

Discussion Question: What areas are you progressing in, or need to grow to keep the “one thing that is needful”?

Jesus said “I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]” …John 10:10 AMP

I Tim 4:13-15...Give attention to reading….

- Are you Meditate upon these things?
- Do you Give yourself wholly to them?
- That your profiting may appear to all?
- Are you taking heed unto thyself?
- Do you continue in them (persevere)?
- To save thyself and them that hear you (responsibility to others)

2 Pet 3:18 – but grow [spiritually mature] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ….

Luke 10:41-42 – But the Lord replied to her, Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered and anxious about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part [that which is to her advantage], which will not be taken away from her.

Finding the “one thing that is needful” takes growing spiritually

John 11:20 – Martha went to meet Jesus and concerned that if he had come earlier Lazarus would not have died.
- Mary – but Mary remained sitting in the house. (waiting)
  o vs 28-29 when she heard Jesus was come, she arose quickly and came unto Him.

Isaiah 54:13 – And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be their peace [their undisturbed composure].