



RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

PETER BELLINGHAM 09 JANUARY 2005

THE ONE THING WORTH BEING CONCERNED ABOUT

This morning we are going to talk about something extremely simple. Something so simple that young children have absolutely no problem understanding it. Yet it is something so important that Jesus said that it is the one thing that is needful. It doesn't matter how old or young you are, it doesn't matter if you have been walking with the Lord for fifty years or for five days; this remains the one thing that is needful. What is that one thing? Let's find out what it is.

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:38-42 KJV)

What is the one thing?

What was Martha doing? Well, she had received Jesus into her house, and obviously he was a very special guest. So she was busy serving him. Trying to make his time there as pleasant as possible. Maybe she was going to wash his feet, which was a custom at that time. Maybe she was tidying the house and making it more comfortable for him. Perhaps she was preparing a meal, a very delicious meal because the Son of God was going to eat in her house. At any rate we know that she was busy serving Jesus, because she loved him.

What was Martha's sister, Mary, doing? She wasn't serving. She wasn't helping Martha with all the preparations. No, she was simply sat at his feet, listening to what he had to say.

Martha was very upset with Mary. Why couldn't she help! In fact she was so upset that she even asked Jesus if he cared that Mary had left her to serve him alone. And she asked him to tell Mary to help her. No doubt she expected Jesus to say, "Yes, you are right. Mary, it is important to learn to serve. It is important to love your sister by helping her. We can talk later. Go and help your sister". But that is not what Jesus said, is it. What did he say? "*Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*" In other words, "Martha, you are so worried and concerned about so much serving. But what Mary is doing is the one thing that is needed. She is sitting at my feet, listening to my word. And I will not ask her to get up and help you, because she is doing the more important thing". Isn't that remarkable? Jesus said that the one thing that is really needful is not to serve him, but rather to sit at his feet and listen to him.

Imagine that Jesus came to your house today. Obviously you would want to make the house as nice as possible for the most important guest that you could ever have. Obviously you would want to feed him with the best food that you can possibly prepare. Imagine that he arrives early and you have not finished all the preparations. The house is messy and the food is not ready. You love him and so you invite him to sit down while you finish the preparations. You really need your family's help as there is so much to do. But they just sit down and start listening to him, leaving you to do all the work. How would you feel? Maybe you would feel like Martha! Maybe you would make signals to your family to get up and come and

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And what would he tell you? “You are worried and troubled about so many things. But there’s really only one thing worth being concerned about. What matters is to sit at my feet and listen to my word. So leave all your preparations, and come sit down with me.”

If you are born again, Jesus is in your house today. He lives in the house of your heart. Amen? And he wants you to know that the one thing that really matters is your relationship with him. The one thing that really matters is for you to sit at his feet and listen to him. More than any service you can do for him, what matters is that you sit with him and listen to him. That you spend time with him.

If you want your relationship with someone to grow, what do you have to do? You have to spend time with them. If you don’t spend time with a person, there is no way your relationship with them can grow. It is the same with God. If our relationship with him is going to grow, we have to spend time sitting at the feet of Jesus.

At the beginning of this message, I said that we were going to talk about something extremely simple. Something so simple that young children have absolutely no problem understanding it. Look at a young child who lives with his parents or with guardians who love him. That young child has a basic need, and that young child knows what this need is. Aside from food and water, what is this basic need? To spend time with his parents or guardians. To be in their presence. To listen to them and talk with them. To let that relationship grow. Children long for that. Children need that.

We are God’s children. We have that same need with God. To spend time in his presence, listening to him.

Obviously here in this meeting we are spending time in God’s presence, listening to him. But Sunday morning is not enough. If a child only spends time with his parents or guardians for one morning a week, that child is not receiving what he needs, is he? If a husband and wife only spend time talking together once a week, they are not receiving what they need, are they?

You need to spend time at the feet of Jesus. If you are born again, he lives in your heart and so he is with you all the time. But you need to spend dedicated time at his feet, listening to him.

How do you do this?

You need to do something very simple. Every day, you need to set aside some time to be with Jesus. You and him. Alone. Sit down in his presence and let him speak to you in your Bible and in your heart. Talk with him and listen. Simple.

When should you do this? Ideally, you should do it in the morning before your day begins. Maybe you will need to arise earlier. If you cannot do it in the morning then do it some other time in the day. But spend time alone with him.

I know there are many pressures and concerns and things to do in the day. But don’t be a Martha. Be a Mary. Let go of all those things for a while and sit at Jesus’ feet. He said that is the one thing that is needful.

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MINISTERIO LA FUENTE

PO Box 690726
HOUSTON
TX 77269-0726, USA

Telephone: 1-281-733-2496

Email: info@ministeriolafuente.org

Website: www.ministeriolafuente.org

We want to serve you in your walk with Christ. Contact us with any questions you may have.

“IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK” - JESUS (JOHN 7:37)