

Only One Thing is Needed

Luke 10:38-42

Key Verse: 10:42

“...but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

1. What message did Jesus give the expert in the Law in the previous passage? (28, 37) Read verse 38. Where were Jesus and his disciples going? (9:51) Why? (Jn 1:29) To what village did they arrive? (Jn 11:1)
2. What kind of welcome did Jesus find in that village? What were the practical implications of Martha's opening her home to Jesus? (Lk 10:5) How does Jesus bless the home he enters?
3. Read verse 39. Who else lived in Martha's home? How did Martha's sister Mary welcome Jesus? What do you think Jesus was talking about?
4. Read verse 40. How did Martha serve Jesus after inviting him and his disciples into her home? (Think about how much work needed doing when 13 men came as guests?) What does it mean that she was distracted?
5. What request did Martha make of Jesus? Why was this a reasonable request? Read verses 40-41. Why was she worried and upset? What does this show about her attitude toward herself and toward Mary? Toward Jesus? (“Don't you care?”)
6. Read verses 41-42. How did Jesus gently rebuke Martha? Why did he rebuke her? What were “the many things”? What was the “one thing” she needed? What did Jesus say about Mary? How is Mary different from the expert in the Law whom Jesus challenged to action? (28, 37)