

One Thing

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Introduction: There is a great value in learning "one thing."

- A. We often use the expression "one thing" for sake of emphasis.
 - 1. Parents say to children: "This one thing you must do."
 - 2. Or, we might say, "I tell you one thing..." "I know one thing..." "Above all else, this one thing must be done..." "Don't forget this one thing..."
- B. The expression "one thing" shows a heart that has a purposed set of priorities!
 - 1. This is described as the "pure in heart" in the beatitudes. **(Mt 5:8)**
 - 2. Are we "double-minded" or can we see the "one thing" we should see? **(Jas 4:8)**

I. "One things I have desired..." (Psalm 27:4)

- A. Above all else the one thing David desired was to dwell in the house of the Lord.
 - 1. To David, it was a joyful experience to be able to worship God. **(Psalm 122:1)**
 - 2. It was not the talent of the worshippers, but who is there!
- B. David desired to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life.
 - 1. Many people would rather dwell in sin all the days of their life. **(Jer. 5:31)**
 - 2. The desire for worship is an acquired "taste." We must first get out of ourselves.
- C. David also desired to behold the beauty of the Lord.
 - 1. Do you think about meeting the Lord? Does it excite you? **(1 Pt 1:7-9; 2 Pt 3:12)**
 - 2. Some desire fleshly beauty. **(Prov. 31:30)** Some desire the beauty of nature more than God because they are out fishing, hunting, hiking, or sightseeing, when they should be in worship.
 - 3. David had his priorities right. He knew that a right relationship with God brought happiness. **(Psalm 144:15, 146:5)**
- D. David wanted to inquire in the temple of the Lord.
 - 1. Many today want to inquire from the world rather than the Lord. **(Psalm 1:1)**
 - 2. In worship we can see things as we should. **(Psa 73:16-17)**
- E. Where do we stand in our desire for worship?
 - 1. Do we say with David - **(Psalm 122:1)** Or, is it, I was glad when they said, "Let's go to the ball game," "Let's go fishing," "Let's go to the movies."
 - 2. Must we build a need for eating? We must choose to worship daily or we will die. **(1 Cor 11:29-30)**

II. "One thing you lack." (Mark 10:21, 17-22)

- A. He measured up unusually well. However, he lacked one thing.
- B. What about us? Is there one thing that we lack?
 - 1. We need to see our hearts as God does. **(Heb 4:12-13; Jas 1:21-26)**
 - 2. If we do, the Lord would say to us, "One thing you lack." What would it be?
 - a. It might be the habit of addition.
 - b. It might be the controlling of our minds in worldly entertainment.
 - c. It might be obedience to the gospel.

III. "One thing I know." (John 9:25-34)

- A. The once blind man was being questioned regarding the fact that Jesus of Nazareth had healed him! He testified that he did know one thing.
 - 1. He had been blind, but now he sees. He knows this and will speak even with opposition! **(2 Cor 4:13-14)**
 - 2. Be honest, what do YOU know?.
- B. We may not know much about a lot of different things, but one thing should know: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."
 - 1. Being convicted of this fact we make him our Lord. **(Lk 6:46)**
 - 2. His presence makes us aware of sin and helps keep us pure. **(1 Cor 6:18-20)**
 - 3. Like the blind man, we were once in darkness (blinded by sin), but now we see (we have the light of life) through Jesus Christ. **(John 8:12)**

IV. "But one thing is needful." (Luke 10:38-42)

- A. Martha was trying to be a good hostess.
 - 1. She complained because Mary was not helping her. Hear Jesus' reply. **(Lk 10:41-42)**
 - 2. Often our real priorities are shown in trivial matters. This is not easy!
- B. Mary was wise enough to see what was more important.
 - 1. Mary is mentioned in three different scenes in the NT, and each time we find her at the feet of Jesus: here in this reading, at the anointing of Jesus' feet **(John 11:1-2; Matt. 26:6-13)**, and at the raising of Lazarus **(John 11:32)**.
- C. There can be no doubt that the preparing of meals is important, but not as important as feasting on the Word of God.(Ex. Woman who stayed home to cook for preacher.)
- D. Many of us fail to put the Lord first in our lives.
 - 1. Like Martha, we are "worried and troubled about many things."
 - 2. The cares of the world will choke out the Word of God. **(Luke 8:14)**
 - 3. We should be careful, worried, or anxious for nothing. **(Phil. 4:6)**
 - 4. If we are concerned about too many worldly things, and if Jesus were here today, He would say, "One thing is needful..."

V. "But this one thing I do..." (Phil. 3:13-14)

- A. Paul encouraged us to follow him as he followed Christ. **(1 Cor 11:1; Phil. 4:9)**
 - 1. One thing he did. He forgot the past and reached forward.
 - 2. When Paul wrote this, he was old and a prisoner in Rome.
- B. There are many things we should forget and reach forward to the goal.
 - 1. Forget one's former denominational religion. Forget it and follow after truth.
 - 2. Forget past hurts and reach forward to love.
 - 3. Forget past accomplishments and reach forward to more work in the Lord.
- C. We, too, like Paul, should strive with great diligence to reach that mark. **(Luke 13:24; 2 Pet. 1:10-11)**

Conclusion: We do not know anything until we learn one thing!