

Daily Devotional Materials

- Thursday -

Devotion

One thing is needful. – Luke 10:42.

Now it came to pass, as Jesus went with His disciples, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His Word. 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.*" And Jesus answered and said unto her: "*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.*" (Luke 10:38-42.) The one thing needful is, that Jesus' Word be preached and heard. Nothing at all on earth is as important and necessary as this, and, certainly, nothing is more important and more necessary than this. For only through the preaching and hearing of the Word of Jesus is that faith wrought and sustained within us – sustained, I say – wherein we sinners stand before God and are justified and saved. Without this faith, which is sustained only and exclusively through the Word of Jesus, even the best of our works can by no means please God, for without such faith we ourselves cannot please God. So the preaching and the hearing of the Word of Jesus is the one thing needful. Let no one take this from you, O Christian!

PRAYER. – I thank Thee, my God, that Thou hast graciously given me Jesus' Word, the Holy Gospel. Preserve it to me and mine, and to all believers! Let it have free course and increase upon earth! Give to me and all believers Thy Holy Ghost, that we may sincerely consider it the one thing needful, and gladly, diligently, and eagerly hear and learn it. Awaken hearts everywhere that heed the Word of Jesus and are thereby converted and saved. For Thou, God, are most good, and Thou earnestly want all men to be saved through faith in Christ Jesus, the only Savior. Amen.

How were Mary's thoughts devoted
Her eternal joy to find,
As intent each word she noted,
At her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
For Jesus all earthly concerns she forgot,
And all was repaid in that one happy lot.

Thus my longings, heavenward tending,
Jesus, rest alone on Thee;
Help me, thus on Thee depending,
Savior, come and dwell in me!
Although all the world should forsake and forget Thee,
In love I will follow Thee, ne'er will I quit Thee;
Lord Jesus, both spirit and life is Thy Word;
And is there a joy which Thou dost not afford?

Hymn 83, 3. 4. (ELHB)

Bible Readings

FIRST READING:

Matthew 6:19-33

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

SECOND READING:

Proverbs 2:1-6

2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

THIRD READING:

Proverbs 4:1-13

4:1 *Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.* **2** *For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.* **3** *For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.* **4** *He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.* **5** *Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.* **6** *Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.* **7** *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.* **8** *Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.* **9** *She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.* **10** *Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.* **11** *I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.* **12** *When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.* **13** *Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.*