

Audio file

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Transcript

00:00:00

Please join with me in the scriptures to the New Testament, to the Gospel of Luke in chapter 10.

00:00:05

To the Gospel of Luke in chapter 10.

00:00:08

And our reading is found at the end of that chapter in verse 38.

00:00:15

The Gospel of Luke chapter 10 and verse 38.

00:00:21

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village.

00:00:26

And a certain woman named Martha received him into her house, and she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word.

00:00:39

But Martha was cumbered, she was overcome, with much serving, and came to him and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?

00:00:57

Bid her, tell her, therefore that she help me.

00:01:02

Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful, concerned, and troubled about many things.

00:01:16

But one thing is needful, and Mary hath chosen that good part.

00:01:24

which shall not be taken away.

00:01:31

The Lord will bless His word to our hearts.

00:01:36

Now our text tonight is found in verse 42.

00:01:40

And just that phrase, One thing needful.

00:01:46

One thing needful.

00:01:51

Let us travel back in time.

00:01:55

to a house, to a home where three people lived in harmony, not perfectly, but in harmony.

00:02:06

Not a mother and father and child, but three siblings, two sisters and a brother.

00:02:17

Of all the places in Judea,

00:02:24

Bethany stood out for our Lord Jesus Christ above them all.

00:02:31

Why?

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Was it because of its geographical position?

00:02:38

Was it because of its scenic beauty?

00:02:41

Was it because of some historic connection?

00:02:47

No.

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According to scripture,

00:02:51

The reason Bethany was most special to the Lord Jesus wasn't because of bricks and mortar, but because of who lived there.

00:03:01

A family that was very precious to Jesus.

00:03:05

A family that is noted for its piety, or as we would say in modern terms, their faith in the Lord.

00:03:16

And into that home, the Lord Jesus Christ

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entered not just once, not just twice, but perhaps more than that.

00:03:24

We have two exact recordings of them being in this home, but this is the first one.

00:03:32

Bethany, where is it?

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It's about six miles from Jerusalem.

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It's just over the Mount of Olives.

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In those days, they didn't have nice modern roads, of course, so you took a track to get to Bethany.

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It was an outlier, if you like.

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It didn't really reckon in the great scheme of things.

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Jerusalem was all that mattered.

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Jerusalem was the capital city.

00:04:01

Jerusalem had the temple.

00:04:03

Jerusalem had the buildings.

00:04:04

Jerusalem had this history.

00:04:08

Jerusalem had the magnetism.

00:04:10

It had the three great festivals.

00:04:13

But Bethany, what was Bethany?

00:04:17

it literally was a place where olives and figs were harvested and pressed.

00:04:25

But in that village was this house.

00:04:30

And I've already noted these three people, two sisters and a brother.

00:04:35

We have their names.

00:04:37

We don't know the names of anyone else who lived in Bethany at the time of Jesus.

00:04:41

Not one.

00:04:43

We have these three.

00:04:45

They recorded for us

00:04:47

by Almighty God for a reason.

00:04:52

Not because of great achievements, but because of great devotion.

00:04:57

Not because of something they have done, but how they received Christ.

00:05:04

Their names are Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

00:05:12

You might say, well, Lazarus is not mentioned here.

00:05:15

There's just Martha and Mary.

00:05:16

Surely it was only two sisters.

00:05:19

Ah, but that's where you need to know your New Testament.

00:05:22

And you get to John chapter 11.

00:05:27

And there you have the same house, the same two sisters.

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And Lazarus this time isn't living in the house.

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He's passed away.

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But it was exactly where he lived.

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The presumption is that Lazarus was the eldest.

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until Mary and Martha were quite similar in age.

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Let's meet these two women just for a moment, because our text is found in verse 42, but we lead up to that.

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Here's a wonderful homely scene.

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It's an ordinary scene really.

00:06:01

The Lord Jesus and his disciples have descended upon Mary and Martha's home.

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You can imagine, perhaps they had been expecting him,

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They didn't have any ways of modern communication.

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But he arrives with his disciples and there they are.

00:06:22

And they're sitting in the home.

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No doubt, there's not much room for anything else, but there they are and they're chatting and they're talking and Martha's very busy and Mary is quiet.

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It's perhaps a scene that you're familiar with.

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Maybe you're very familiar with this.

00:06:42

Maybe you're familiar with family members just coming in unexpected upon you.

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In some cultures it's very common.

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If you're a missionary abroad, the expectation is that your door never is locked.

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It's always open, 24 hours.

00:07:00

But nonetheless, here they are.

00:07:04

Martha's busy.

00:07:07

Mary's quiet.

00:07:10

Martha's getting everything ready.

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Do you notice how Luke records for us?

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She was cumbered about in verse 40.

00:07:19

She's heavy laden, she's worried, she's stressed in modern terms about much serving.

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She's got all these mouths to feed.

00:07:29

She's got this meal to prepare.

00:07:31

And she comes to the Lord Jesus and she says, Lord, dost thou not care?

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What a question.

00:07:39

Of course he cares.

00:07:41

But he's really asking, do you not care that I'm left on my own to serve all this crowd?

00:07:47

Look at my sister.

00:07:49

What's she doing for us?

00:07:52

We're all tempted to be like Marth, aren't we?

00:07:55

It's one of the human tendencies.

00:07:59

You see somebody working for the Lord and you're working and they're working away and somebody else is just sitting there and they're travelers.

00:08:09

They're piggybacking.

00:08:13

There she is, and Martha's so busy.

00:08:18

And she's troubled.

00:08:19

And Luke goes on and describes her heart condition.

00:08:22

He says, Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha.

00:08:26

Now, you need to notice this.

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Martha, Martha.

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The Lord here is not just repeating her name for emphasis or for effect.

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He's searching her.

00:08:40

Do you remember what he said to Mary Magdalene when he rose up from the dead?

00:08:45

Mary, Mary.

00:08:48

And when Peter was about to engage in denying the Lord, he says, Simon, Simon.

00:08:59

This of course is omniscience.

00:09:01

Christ knows the very heart, the very condition of every single person he meets.

00:09:06

throughout his earthly ministry.

00:09:08

And here it says, Martha, Martha.

00:09:10

She must have stopped still.

00:09:12

She must have thought what he's going to say now.

00:09:14

Maybe he's going to tell my sister to get up and help me.

00:09:22

But no.

00:09:24

He says, Thou art careful.

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Now notice the emphasis here on the focus.

00:09:28

Thou art careful, thou art anxious, thou art over worried.

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That's the idea here.

00:09:36

You're so worried and troubled, you're distressed about many things, but one thing is needful.

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Just one.

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Now, before we look at the text, I want us just to think for a moment.

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And I don't know if this will put it in context for some and relief for others, but people have this idea that

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The Bible subjects women or makes them lesser citizens than men.

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Well, let me give you an example of what it was like to be an Athenian woman in Athens in ancient times.

00:10:25

Did they have the same status as the Jews?

00:10:28

Did they have the same rights and privileges?

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Well, not according to historians.

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Let me give you some examples.

00:10:38

In Athenian society, though it was very highly regarded and the center of excellence and intellectual ability and academia and so forth, and seemingly a great example of organization and democracy, in Athens the girls received little or no education.

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Secondly, they were married off very young.

00:11:05

Third, they had no legal rights.

00:11:11

None.

00:11:15

In Athenian law, a woman was classified as a child, regardless of her age, regardless of her station.

00:11:26

Fourth, males could divorce

00:11:31

simply by telling his wife to leave the house.

00:11:35

And fifth, a woman in Athens could own property, but the property would never be in her name.

00:11:47

Now see the contrast.

00:11:49

You see the contrast here.

00:11:52

Sometimes we forget how much, how different

00:11:57

God treats and sees men and women than the rest of pagan societies.

00:12:04

That might make you uneasy.

00:12:06

It certainly made me uneasy.

00:12:09

But think of what God has done, even in this text.

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Here's the Son of God who comes into this home and treats these women, perhaps not as equals, because he is, after all, the Son of God, but he does treat them with such respect

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and such care and such attention.

00:12:29

And you read throughout the Bible, men and women are created in the image and likeness of God.

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Now contrast with pagan religions.

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And this is a very different story.

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Also see this, the Lord Jesus doesn't bring down the fiery judgment of God upon Martha because she seems

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to be upset, how tender he is, how kind he is, how gentle he is.

00:13:04

Now think of how society has been transformed in the West by the Christian message of the Gospel, and how women's position and responsibility in society has been raised by Christian truth.

00:13:22

Can you imagine?

00:13:25

What it would have been like to have been a Christian, or sorry, a woman in medieval times.

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You didn't have the same rights or standards as we have in Christian, biblical Christian countries.

00:13:43

But let's look at Mary and Martha.

00:13:45

Mary's busy, Martha's sitting quietly.

00:13:48

Martha's bustling about hosting the guests and Mary is sitting where?

00:13:55

at Jesus' feet.

00:14:00

Mary is listening intently to the Saviour's words.

00:14:05

I wonder what she's thinking of the Psalm, Psalm 45, verse 2.

00:14:09

Grace is poured upon his lips and pours out of his lips.

00:14:17

I wonder is she meditating on those beautiful words in the Song of Solomon, which speaks about his mouth is lovely and sweet.

00:14:27

I wonder is she thinking of God's Word distilled upon her like a Jew?

00:14:33

D-E-W, by the way.

00:14:37

I wonder is Mary sitting there and just drinking it all in, looking up to Christ with

00:14:46

absolute devotion.

00:14:50

She's not sitting on a bench.

00:14:53

She's sitting at His feet.

00:14:57

She recognizes her position, even in the presence of Christ, that she is not on the same equality as Him.

00:15:06

He, after all, is the Savior sent of God.

00:15:10

But nonetheless, she's closest to Him.

00:15:15

Notice how gently Jesus rebuked Martha.

00:15:20

He didn't rebuke her because she worked hard to prepare a meal and to wear a feast.

00:15:27

He rebuked her gently because she had neglected something else.

00:15:32

She had neglected that which was most important.

00:15:36

She had chosen to be busy rather than to being still.

00:15:45

Aren't we all tempted to be the same?

00:15:49

I know I am.

00:15:52

I'd rather be busy than sitting quietly, reading and studying God's Word.

00:15:58

But Mary here is a great example to us.

00:16:01

And yet before we rebuke Martha out of hand and say, Oh, she's a terrible lady, and how could she be a Christian or a believer?

00:16:11

Remember how Jesus spoke to her when her dear brother had passed away.

00:16:18

Remember what the Lord Jesus revealed to her as he sat in the same house in John chapter 11.

00:16:27

In John chapter 11, verse 20, Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, Lazarus had been dead now in the tomb four days.

00:16:37

She went and met him.

00:16:41

But Mary sat still in the house.

00:16:43

That doesn't mean she's still in the house from the previous text, but it does mean that she stayed at home.

00:16:49

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother would not have died.

00:16:54

That's true in a way.

00:16:59

But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

00:17:04

See the faith, see the belief, see the trust.

00:17:11

of Martha.

00:17:13

Everyone raises up Mary and says, oh, she's such an example of faith and belief in God, but here's Martha.

00:17:24

The Lord Jesus gives her a wonderful assurance.

00:17:27

Verse 23, he says, Jesus saith unto her, thy brother shall rise again.

00:17:33

Now look at Martha's theology.

00:17:36

Verse 24, Martha said unto him,

00:17:39

I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

00:17:44

Now look at Christ's revelation.

00:17:47

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life.

00:17:50

He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

00:17:55

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

00:17:58

Believest thou this?

00:18:03

Ah.

00:18:03

So here we have two women who believe, who are trusting in God.

00:18:08

who have this deep theology may not ever have written anything down, but so the less.

00:18:17

But let's come back to this text, one thing needful.

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What is needful?

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Well, let's look at a few things, but the main thing, this word needful, it means necessary, essential, an absolute requirement.

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What is so necessary?

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Here tonight amongst us, what is so necessary?

00:18:42

Well, life is necessary, and health is necessary, says another.

00:18:49

And to be safe is another, and to be secure is another, and to know where you're going is another.

00:18:54

And there's all kinds of suggestions, but what is the most important thing?

00:18:59

What is the one thing needful?

00:19:03

Well, George Whitfield, one of the most famous preachers in the English language,

00:19:07

preached to thousands upon thousands of people in open-air services.

00:19:12

At one stage he was recorded as preaching to 20,000 people in Philadelphia back in the 18th century.

00:19:23

He preached this text, one thing needful.

00:19:31

And he said this, and he argues this,

00:19:36

The salvation of the soul is the ultimate priority.

00:19:42

And if you have not got salvation for your soul, then you've lacked and you've ignored the one thing needful.

00:19:53

It's recorded that one night he was staying in a friend's house and he was speaking to a young man in that house, he was a visitor, he wasn't a Christian.

00:20:07

And Whitfield had just preached a marvelous sermon as he normally did, and he was exhausted.

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He preached to thousands of people.

00:20:15

And he's lying there half asleep.

00:20:18

This young man comes to him and says, Mr.

00:20:20

Whitfield, what is the most important thing?

00:20:25

Whitfield says one thing needful.

00:20:28

The salvation of your never dying soul.

00:20:33

so few realize that the one thing needful tonight is not more money and not more power and not more influence and not

00:20:45

likes on whatever social media you're on, but the one thing needful is to be saved by the grace of God.

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Let me show you five things.

00:20:58

The one thing you need tonight, in contrast to the many things that you might think you need, is the salvation of your soul.

00:21:07

True life, that's the first thing.

00:21:10

We need true life.

00:21:14

True life.

00:21:15

What is true life?

00:21:16

Well, you could say it's eternal life.

00:21:19

It's everlasting life.

00:21:20

It's life that's guaranteed in this life and in the life to come.

00:21:26

It doesn't begin in heaven.

00:21:30

True life, eternal life begins on earth.

00:21:35

And how many young people need to hear this?

00:21:39

The suicide rate in Scotland is going through the roof.

00:21:43

Young men are despairing of life itself, and if only somebody would tell them the true life is salvation, and it begins here in this world, in this life.

00:21:59

Life eternal.

00:22:00

Do you remember what the Lord prayed in John chapter 17?

00:22:08

And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God,

00:22:13

and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

00:22:16

A religious man came and visited him one night, a bit like the man who's recorded for us in Luke chapter 10 in the Good Samaritan.

00:22:24

His name was Nicodemus.

00:22:27

He arrives and he comes by night and he steals up to hoping he'll have a word with Christ, a quiet word, and the Lord Jesus hears how Nicodemus greets him and says, oh, he basically praises him up in verse two,

00:22:43

And the Lord Jesus doesn't pay any attention to any of this empty praise.

00:22:50

He says, verily, verily, truly, truly, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

00:23:01

Really?

00:23:02

Even to a religious man?

00:23:03

Absolutely.

00:23:05

Every priest in the world needs to hear this.

00:23:08

Every religious person in the world needs to hear this.

00:23:12

Unless they're born again, they cannot see the kingdom of God.

00:23:17

But the Lord Jesus doesn't say it just once in this passage.

00:23:19

He says it again in verse 7.

00:23:22

John chapter 3, verse 3 and verse 7.

00:23:25

The same similar words, Marvel not, don't wonder, that I said unto thee.

00:23:32

Again, this is the same Nicodemus, Ye must be born again.

00:23:38

Now notice this.

00:23:40

He said to Nicodemus, thou must be born again, but in this text he says, he must be born again.

00:23:46

Is that a mistake?

00:23:48

Has our Bible translators kind of lost the whole train of things?

00:23:53

No, no, no, no.

00:23:54

The Lord Jesus now is applying to the rest of his disciples.

00:23:58

He must be born again.

00:24:02

Whitfield was asked one day by a very well-to-do lady, an aristocrat, she said to him, Mr.

00:24:08

Whitfield, you're always preaching on

00:24:10

You must be born again.

00:24:11

And he says, Madam, you must be born again.

00:24:15

He was right.

00:24:17

Oh, so few people know what it is to be born again.

00:24:22

Religion doesn't replace being born again.

00:24:25

Being a good person doesn't replace being born again.

00:24:27

In fact, there's no substitute for being born again.

00:24:30

Absolutely none.

00:24:33

And the sooner the Christian world wakes up and preaches this message, the better.

00:24:38

True life

00:24:40

How can I have true life only if you're born again?

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The Lord Jesus puts it a different way in the Gospel of Matthew.

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It's very interesting.

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He doesn't speak about being born again.

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You might have heard the theological term to be regenerate.

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People think, well, that's fine.

00:25:01

That's just saying a prayer, is it really?

00:25:04

No, to be regenerate means that God puts the principle of eternal life in your never dying soul.

00:25:11

He does it.

00:25:13

We can't decide to be born again.

00:25:16

God puts the new life in our souls and then we seek something.

00:25:19

What do we seek?

00:25:20

Well, the Lord Jesus tells us.

00:25:23

Matthew chapter 18, verse 3 says, except ye be converted.

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Really are they two sides of the same coin, if we could put it?

00:25:34

Absolutely.

00:25:36

You'll never be converted unless you're born again, and you'll never be born again unless the Lord has already worked and applied and called you to conversion.

00:25:48

Oh, friends, true life.

00:25:51

We need it.

00:25:54

It's good to be a young person.

00:25:55

It's good to have your life stretched out before you.

00:25:59

It's going to be able to say, oh, I'm hoping to do this tomorrow, and this the next day, and this next week, and this next year, and this in 10 years time, and I hope to achieve all these things.

00:26:08

That's a great thing to have.

00:26:11

But what if you're not born again?

00:26:17

What if you're not converted?

00:26:22

What if you've never, ever, ever truly been

00:26:27

converted to Christ.

00:26:31

What does eternity look like?

00:26:36

So this first of all is true life.

00:26:39

The word of God tells us that there are more things and more activities that people fit into their lives to squeeze out this one key thing, to be born again.

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Second thing is true growth.

00:26:56

You notice that I'm using the word true, real, genuine.

00:27:00

What kind of growth?

00:27:02

Spiritual growth.

00:27:04

Spiritual growth.

00:27:06

When somebody is born again, they grow.

00:27:09

Did you know that?

00:27:11

Think of just a child.

00:27:14

When they're born, you're not expecting them to stay in the cradle until they're 10 years of age.

00:27:18

You're expecting them to grow up.

00:27:23

be very strange if you met adults who act like children although sadly some children and some adults are quite childish you've probably met them maybe you tended to be one before your confession I don't know oh to be growing to be growing up but it's not speaking about physically growing it's speaking about spiritually growing what does Peter tell us

00:27:52

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

00:27:58

How many of us are gardeners?

00:28:00

Some people here are of green fingers.

00:28:03

Not literally, but they're so talented to take this dying plant, who may as well have been thrown on the compost heap, if you have one at home, if you haven't got a green bin, and you just discard it.

00:28:15

But no, somebody else takes this tender plant.

00:28:19

This plant looks so bad and wilted and everything and gradually brings back life.

00:28:26

But the key thing is the plant was still alive.

00:28:29

It wasn't dead.

00:28:35

Same in the Christian life.

00:28:38

True life should bring true growth.

00:28:43

God nurtures what he's planted.

00:28:47

He pours the water upon it.

00:28:49

He gives us sunlight, the sunlight of His love.

00:28:54

He gives us warmth.

00:28:56

He encourages us.

00:28:59

But growth is expected as a Christian.

00:29:02

Did you know that?

00:29:04

We're to grow in holiness, to grow in loveliness.

00:29:06

We're to grow in Christlikeness.

00:29:09

Ah, that's what's missing.

00:29:13

Unless we're born again, we'll never

00:29:17

have true life and unless we have true life, we will never truly grow as Christians.

00:29:25

But after true life and true growth, what comes next?

00:29:29

Well, growth is based on knowledge.

00:29:31

You know that little phrase, grow in the grace and knowledge.

00:29:35

Not grace only.

00:29:37

Not the grace of God only, but the knowledge of God.

00:29:44

How many of us are growing in the knowledge of God?

00:29:47

Somebody says, Oh, I hate theology.

00:29:51

Do people realize what they're saying when they say that?

00:29:54

Theology is the study of God, the knowledge of God.

00:29:57

If we're true Christians, we'd love to know God more, wouldn't we?

00:30:02

If you're a newlywed or if you're engaged to another Christian girl or fellow, as long as you're a girl and she's a, or you're a fellow and she's a girl or vice versa,

00:30:15

You want to spend time with them.

00:30:18

You want to know them more.

00:30:20

It's the same in the Christian life.

00:30:24

But there's a third thing to true service.

00:30:27

True life, true growth, true service.

00:30:31

What's Martha doing?

00:30:33

She's serving.

00:30:36

What's Mary doing?

00:30:38

She's not serving.

00:30:40

At least not obviously physically there and then.

00:30:44

But she is serving in another way.

00:30:47

She's listening to Christ.

00:30:50

Service comes from conversion.

00:30:54

The old phrase would have been, don't put the cart before the horse.

00:30:58

We don't have carts or horses anymore.

00:31:02

But make sure it goes in the right order.

00:31:04

Some people think they can serve before they're converted.

00:31:06

That doesn't make sense.

00:31:10

Once we are saved, once we are converted, once we're born again, we'll grow and we'll want to serve.

00:31:17

Who do we want to serve?

00:31:19

Well, once upon a time we served ourselves.

00:31:22

Once upon a time we were self-serving.

00:31:25

You go into a restaurant and you've got a self-service display.

00:31:31

You help yourself.

00:31:34

It's not like that in the Christian life.

00:31:37

We serve the Lord.

00:31:40

Once upon a time, some of us served Satan.

00:31:42

We didn't even realise it.

00:31:46

We were in his army and we were enrolled under his authority.

00:31:51

But now we serve Christ.

00:31:57

Service.

00:32:00

So important.

00:32:02

Working for the Lord.

00:32:05

That is working like a slave for the Lord, it just means working for the Lord.

00:32:12

If you're a true Christian, then you're growing.

00:32:16

You have true life, so you're true growing.

00:32:18

If you're truly growing, you'll be serving in whatever capacity.

00:32:23

But I just found this little poem, some of us like poems, and I found this little poem and I thought I'd share it with you.

00:32:33

It's a little bit,

00:32:34

How would I put it?

00:32:35

It is poetic, let's say.

00:32:37

This person had a poetic license, but we'll listen to them and see what they say.

00:32:45

Martha in the kitchen, serving with her hands, occupied for Jesus with her pots and pans, loving him, yet fevered, burdened to the brim.

00:32:55

Careful, troubled Martha occupied for him.

00:33:00

Mary on the footstool,

00:33:02

Eyes upon our Lord, occupied with Jesus, drinking in his word.

00:33:06

This one thing was needful, all our strangely dim, loving, resting Mary occupied with him.

00:33:18

So may we, like Mary, choose the better part, resting in his presence, hands and feet and heart, drinking in his wisdom, strengthened by his grace.

00:33:31

waiting for the summons, eyes upon his face.

00:33:38

When it comes, we're ready.

00:33:41

Spirit, will and nerve, Mary's heart to worship, Martha's hand to serve.

00:33:50

This is the rightful order, as our lamps we trim, occupied with Jesus.

00:33:58

Then

00:33:59

occupied for him.

00:34:04

True life, true growth, true service, and lastly tonight, true happiness.

00:34:16

Happiness.

00:34:19

Well, some people think happiness is a box of chocolates.

00:34:24

And other people think happiness is a particular alcoholic drink.

00:34:28

And others think that happiness is a nice, relaxing holiday.

00:34:34

Well, I'm not thinking of any of those.

00:34:36

I'm thinking of eternal happiness.

00:34:42

The only way we'll be eternally happy, as the old little children's song taught us, We're happy in Jesus.

00:34:54

It was a hymn written many years ago, and I'll just quote the first line,

00:35:00

happy day that I fixed my heart on Jesus.

00:35:07

Have you done that, friend?

00:35:10

Have you fixed your heart on Jesus Christ?

00:35:14

Or is everything else crowded into your heart?

00:35:16

Are you a bit more like Martha?

00:35:18

Cumbered with a load of care.

00:35:20

Another hymn comes to mind, written by an Irishman.

00:35:26

What a friend in Jesus.

00:35:31

All our griefs to bear.

00:35:34

What a privilege to carry.

00:35:36

Everything to God in prayer.

00:35:43

Are we heavy laden?

00:35:45

Cumbered with a load of care?

00:35:49

Bring it to Jesus.

00:35:52

You see, true life, true growth, true service, and true happiness are only found in Jesus Christ.

00:36:00

Oh, there's a multitude of voices in the world that will tell you tonight you'll find true life, true growth, true service, and true happiness in anything else.

00:36:11

But believe you me, I've been on the earth a few years, not as many as some friends here.

00:36:18

You won't find any of these things truly.

00:36:22

in anything else but Jesus Christ and faith in him.

00:36:28

One thing needful.

00:36:31

But how can we have this true life, true growth and true service and true happiness?

00:36:35

We can only have it through salvation in Jesus Christ, who came from heaven's glory, who came to live a perfect life, who served, yes, he served his Father, he's fulfilled the whole law of God, on behalf of who?

00:36:52

on behalf of us.

00:36:55

Here's Christ, who's visited Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, who's spoken with them, who's counseled with them, who's given them great advice and pointed them in the right direction, but He's also come to save them.

00:37:10

At the end of the Gospel of Luke, you'll find our dear Savior on the cross of Calvary.

00:37:16

but He's no longer there.

00:37:19

He was taken down.

00:37:21

He laid in a tomb, and on the third day he rose from the dead.

00:37:27

On the cross he died for sinners, and from the tomb he arose victorious over sin, death, hell and the grave.

00:37:36

And therefore tonight those who are in Christ are truly saved and truly safe.

00:37:44

And there's nowhere else safer than being in the arms of Jesus.

00:37:51

You see, too many of us get wrapped up in the world we're in.

00:37:57

Never think about the world beyond.

00:38:01

The eternal world.

00:38:04

The life beyond this world.

00:38:07

So what will I leave you tonight?

00:38:10

One thing needful.

00:38:11

Just one?

00:38:13

Just one, you say?

00:38:14

Absolutely just one.

00:38:16

Put this at the top of your bucket list.

00:38:19

But this is the top of your priority list.

00:38:22

Take all the other things off, wipe them off, erase them, however you have to do it, and start with this.

00:38:29

I want to know Christ.

00:38:31

And I want to know Him for myself.

00:38:34

And I'm not going to give up until I truly know Him.

00:38:37

And I'll only know Him when I'm truly converted.

00:38:41

And I'll only be truly converted when I truly repent of my sin and truly rely on Him alone as my Savior.

00:38:48

and I give up all my good works and I give up all my good intentions and I give up all my plans for the future and I lay myself at the foot of the cross and I repent of my sin and I say, Lord, I've been a sinner.

00:39:01

Save me tonight.

00:39:04

You know, some of us here had to come to that place.

00:39:07

Some of us had to be brought right to our knees, right to the very bottom of our lives, right to the dregs.

00:39:15

and we were lying on the floor pleading with God for forgiveness of sin.

00:39:22

Did the Lord ignore us?

00:39:25

No.

00:39:26

Some of us are here tonight to tell you, no, He didn't.

00:39:30

He came to us and He looked upon us and He forgave our sin and He gave us a new heart and a new life and a new hope and a new joy, but we'd already been born again.

00:39:46

You see, the culmination of our new birth was our conversion.

00:39:51

And when we repented and trusted in Christ alone, who died on Calvary's cross, that great burden of sin that we had carried for many a year was lifted off.

00:40:02

The old gospel song comes to mind.

00:40:05

Burdens are lifted at Calvary.

00:40:10

So do you have this one thing needful?

00:40:13

And if you don't,

00:40:15

Oh, my dear friend, do not rest until you have it.

00:40:20

And once you have it, tell others about it.

00:40:24

Let's pray.

00:40:25

Father in heaven, we're thankful for tonight.

00:40:27

Bless us as we leave this place.

00:40:30

Keep us in the palm of thy hand.

00:40:32

Work in anyone here, Lord, who's just seeking, who's thought maybe the Lord has forgotten me.

00:40:40

The Lord is ignoring me.

00:40:41

I've been seeking, I've been longing, I've been asking.

00:40:45

Oh Lord, come to this dear one tonight.

00:40:48

Some of us know what it's like to seek thee and to ask of thee and to beg of thee and not to have an immediate answer and wonder whether the Lord has not heard.

00:40:58

Of course he's heard.

00:41:00

And we pray for any young or older ones here tonight.

00:41:02

It doesn't matter what age we are, Lord.

00:41:05

This one thing needful is essential.

00:41:08

to be born again of the Holy Spirit, to be converted to Christ, to be saved from our sin, and to be secure for heaven.

00:41:16

Oh, please, Lord, come tonight, blessed the preaching of the gospel in every place, and use this message for thy glory, in Jesus' name.

00:41:25

Amen.