

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost
““The one, good and absolutely needed Gospel of Jesus!”
Luke 10:41-42
July 20, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 6th Sunday after Pentecost is from
Luke 10:41-42.

“41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

So far the text:

The Texas Department of Transportation has a short saying to impress upon all drivers the need to stay focused on the road while driving. Talk, Text, Crash. Pretty simple. Distracted driving is dangerous driving. Whether its talking on the phone, fiddling with the radio, answering a text, eating a sandwich or anything that takes one’s eyes off the road, the number #1 cause of collisions is distracted driving.

Well, today’s message isn’t about driver safety, although that’s always a good reminder for all of us. For 5 seconds of distracted driving with one’s eyes off the road is the length of a football field travelling at 55 mph. And it only takes a moment of distraction to change one’ own life and the lives of others.

No, today’s message is about something far more serious. Far more serious than a highway accident? Oh, yes. For our text speaks to all of us about distractions of the soul and the consequences of a distracted soul are eternal.

Jesus saw the danger that Martha was putting herself in, and brought it to her attention. She was distracted with much serving, says our text. Does that sound very serious? Isn’t it a good thing to be hospitable to your guests and make sure that they are well fed and taken care of? Our text, says that Martha was distracted with not just a little serving, but much serving. It was over the top and taking her attention away from what was most important, being served first by her Lord Jesus.

Well, of course, there's a time and place for meal preparation for we all need to eat and drink. And for a special guest like the Son of God, one would want everything to be just right.

In our Old Testament reading, Abraham made sure that his three guests, including the pre-incarnate Son of God, the Lord as our reading tells us, had a little water and a morsel of bread to refresh their hearts. And he had a young man prepare a good and tender calf to eat as well.

And then Abraham stood by them as they ate, and listened to the word of God. And that word of God had a special promise for Abraham and Sarah in their old age... For right after our reading, Jesus announces that Sarah will have a son. And of course, the descendent of Isaac would be the Savior Jesus who visits Mary and Martha in their home, now in the flesh.

The Lord, four months away from His death and resurrection to carry all the sins of the world, all the worries, troubles, cares of life, stops at Mary, Martha and Lazarus home to refresh them...strengthen them...for indeed there would also be much sorrow in the household when Lazarus would get sick and die.

Jesus had a special relationship with them as we hear in John 11, **“5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.”** And with much love, Jesus looks into Martha's heart with His omniscience and sees what's really going on in Martha's heart...worries and troubles about many things.

She was driving distracted. Her focus should have been on Jesus and His words of life that would remove her worries and troubles. But instead, she her “much serving” was her way of coping with her problems. She was trying to deal with her anxieties on her own and that never ever works... for Martha or any of us.

“Martha, Martha” Jesus repeats her name twice showing how much He cares for her soul's well-being. I'm right her in your presence. I am the one needful thing that you need, that your sister Mary needs, that all of us need. Mary has chosen the good part. For Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Martha needed to focus her eyes back on the Way, the Truth and the Life with her sister. She needed to focus her eyes on the one road to heaven – Jesus Christ. Her soul needed to be fed with the Bread of Life.

What worries and troubles do we try to carry ourselves and busy our lives with much serving to try and distract ourselves from the sadnesses of afflictions of this life? God doesn't want us to distract ourselves to try and block them out of our minds. No, Jesus invites us to **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Matthew 11:28

Rest at the feet of Jesus. Rest in God's house, being served first by Him with His Word and Sacraments. Rest in eating and drinking what Jesus offers for our souls – His very body and blood for our forgiveness.

Mary wasn't being lazy. She was focused on the road...the Way, the Truth and the Life. She was receiving what was the one needful thing - the Gospel.

She was fighting the good fight for her soul. It was a deliberate conscious choice of her new spirit, to prioritize sitting at Jesus feet and hearing His Word when He was in her house. Jesus had chosen her, come to her house, given her faith to believe and now she responds in faith by choosing first the Kingdom of God.

By your new spirit given to you in baptism, you also are called to daily choose and follow Jesus. Psalm 27:4, our Psalm for today, says in the fourth verse:

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord,”

Parents are leaders that must choose the one needful thing for themselves and for their children. If one doesn't bring children to God's house, read God's word to them, then our families get distracted with many things that which don't feed the soul. And in time, a distracted soul falls away and crashes eternally.

Mary was being afflicted by her sister, criticizing her for not helping. Sometimes we are afflicted by the ones closest to us. But Jesus comforted and strengthened Mary that she indeed had chosen the one necessary thing – Him! The Gospel! The Good News. She wanted to hear more and more. And grow more and more.

Some might try to distract you also. Some might tell you that the time you spend coming to God's house on Sunday could be better spent on other things. Your own sinful flesh says, I would rather do something entertaining, or get ahead on the weeks work or make some extra money to buy something that I really want.

Today's epistle from Colossians 1 helps us refocus our attention on Christ and what He has done for us.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—"

We once were enemies of God, but now have been reconciled with Him by Jesus' death. He presents you holy and blameless and above reproach. He takes away all our sins. The theme verse for this summer's camp at Camp Lone Star is Isaiah 43:1. It's full of the Good News of what God has done.

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine."

We need to hear this good news daily that defines who we are in the midst of all our troubles. For as the next verses in Isaiah remind us:

**"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;"**

The one needful thing, the good thing, that Jesus freely gives to us, serves us with is His salvation. You are a redeemed baptized child of God, loved claimed by God. You are His. And as His redeemed Paul exhorts all of us to be served by Him at His feet.

"23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,"

Continue in the faith. Never moved away from this hope in Jesus. Never distracted by cares of this world. It is the one needful thing.

We are bombarded by the world of what we need. What do you need to retire? What do you need for your children's education? The Lord knows what we need before we do and He graciously supplies us with our daily bread. And one day, all the things of this world will no longer be sought after, for God gives us what is truly needed – eternal life.

Jesus promised Mary and Martha and all of us that this good part, the new life in Christ will never be taken away.

Psalm 27:10

“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!”

God's goodness is never lacking in this land of the living – with all its worries and troubles. And God's goodness is forever in the land of the living, in Jesus' very presence in heaven. Christ's goodness came to the world, the one needed thing by all people. By His suffering death and resurrection He has reconciled the world to Himself. It is good and well-pleasing to His Father. And it will never be taken away from us.

And may God keep us ever focused on this Good news all the days of our lives! Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)