



WHAT IS BETTER? WHAT IS BEST?

June 2021

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:41-42

When you’ve read Mary and Martha’s story, you saw Mary’s eagerness to listen to Jesus. Over the last few days, I’ve been mulling over what Jesus meant when he said that Mary had chosen what was “better.” He told Martha that listening to him was “better” than preparing food for company.

As you go through your days doing what you do, do you ever wonder what's most important? What to do first? For most of us there's so much—probably all of it good: Cooking, cleaning, visiting friends, shopping, volunteering, keeping up with the news. It's hard to know what's best.

But are you remembering to give some time to the very best? To Jesus?

Then I noticed something I'd never paid attention to before. Jesus said that what Mary had chosen would "not be taken from her."

I got quite excited about that little line. In one simple statement, Jesus told Martha that the spiritual food he is giving Mary will always be there. His food is ever-lasting.

The worldly things we partake in—whether it be cooking, cleaning, shopping, etc.—are all temporary. Good and necessary, but not lasting. But our eternal lives will remain forever. They are the "better" that Jesus talks about.

Many years ago I gave up reading the news. Friends frowned. "Aren't you interested in what's happening in the world?"

But I can't handle too many interests all at one time. I had found reading the news too much of a distraction from what was most important to me. Besides, there are already so many reading the news and caring for the world. Do they really need me too?

And so, my choice has been to read and write about what's eternal—that which is lasting, that which never changes. What's in the world is constantly changing.

Makes you realize—doesn't it—how great it is to have someone like Jesus. He will never be taken away from us. He's forever ours.

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