



## Part 1: The One Thing Needed

Luke 10:38-42

*The most important practice in the Christian life is our wholehearted attentiveness to Jesus.*

- The Beautiful Life of Jesus

When Jesus walked the Earth, He possessed unparalleled personal power – not only for miracles – but in His personal dealings with people and circumstances ... patient under pressure, to love the unlovely, to forgive His enemies, wisdom to know what was needed, trust in God when facing torture and death. He possessed, as no other person has, unlimited powers of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Jesus nourished His personal strength in a certain way. He chose a lifestyle characterized by practices that connected Him with God the Father, God's family, and God's mission. Jesus practiced rhythms of worship, community, and mission.

Jesus offers us the very LIFE of God. The most comprehensive word in the New Testament for our salvation in Christ is "life" or "eternal life."

*"We are invited to make a pilgrimage – into the heart and life of God... God's desire for us is that we should live in Him. He sends us the Way to Himself ... God makes Himself and His kingdom available to us ... Jesus offers himself as God's doorway into the life that is truly life. Confidence in him leads us today, as in other times, to become his apprentices in eternal living."* Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

We say "yes" to Jesus, and He gives us LIFE. He invites us to follow Him – arrange our lives around Him and His lifestyle practices. If we want to live more closely with Him and become more like Him, we must adopt His practices for LIFE.

- The One Thing Needed
  - The Setting – contrast Martha and Mary (not introverts v. extroverts)
  - Jesus Commends Mary

The posture of a disciple is one of wholehearted attentiveness to Jesus.

- Martha's Problem: Distraction

The two great enemies of our salvation today are hurry and distraction.

*"Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. Hurry can destroy our souls. Hurry can keep us from living well. ... For many of us the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them." John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted*

*"The number one problem you will face is time. People are just too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually rich and vibrant lives." Christian Psychologist to John Mark Comer, The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*

*"If you're not paying for the product, then you are the product. ... We're the product. Our attention is the product being sold to the advertisers. ... It's the gradual, slight, imperceptible change in your own behavior that is the product." The Social Dilemma Docudrama on Netflix (13:22 – 14:24).*

- Practical Suggestions
  - Take an inventory of your time this next week. How much time do you spend on social media, the internet, watching T.V.? What are you encouraging your kids to do with their time?
  - Have an honest conversation with Jesus about what you really want. Do you want to experience more of His LIFE in and through you?
  - Evaluate your current practices of attending to Jesus? Is what you're doing helping you receive His LIFE?
  - Are you willing to ask Jesus to be your Teacher and Lord as well as your Savior? Are you willing to be real and vulnerable with your small group about where you really are spiritually?

See <https://greenwoodcc.com/practices/>

**Discussion Questions:**

- What has been your concept of salvation in Jesus Christ? How have you understood "eternal life"?
- Has anyone ever taught you how, as a Christian, to be an "apprentice in eternal living," to use the language of Dallas Willard? What, if anything, were you taught?
- How do you respond to the idea that Jesus models certain practices or rhythms of a lifestyle that are important to our transformation?
- What is your response to the suggestions above?
- Have you looked at Greenwood's website for the "Practices" section? Thoughts?