

Only One Thing

John 4:23-24

- Jesus needed to go through Samaria
- Why? Because He needed to meet the woman at the well
- Jesus asks her for a drink
- Tells her if she knew who He was then she would be asking Him for living water that would cause her to never thirst again
- Then He calls her out about her 5 husbands and her current boyfriend
- She tells Him He must be a prophet
- **Then they begin to talk about worship and Jesus says in Verse 23**

Read John 4:23-24

- The Father is seeking those who will *worship* Him in spirit and truth
 - o “Worship” = Proskeneo
 - “Pros” = To turn toward
 - “Keneo” = to kiss
 - o The Father is seeking those who will turn toward and kiss Him
 - o We may all have different ideas of what we think God is wanting of us, but one thing if for sure, **God is seeking those who will be intimate with Him**
- In **Jer. 33:34** God is speaking to Israel about the New Covenant that He would make with them, and that He would inaugurate to us (the church), and he says, **“No more shall every man teach his neighbor and every man his brother saying, ‘Know the Lord’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord.”**
 - o The New Covenant was a three part covenant
 - 1) A covenant where God would deliver us from works and change and enable our lives to be more like Him
 - 2) A covenant of forgiveness
 - 3) A covenant of Intimacy
 - **“They shall all *know* me”**
 - o “know” = yaw-daw (*explain*)
 - o **Jesus purchased, with His life, access to intimacy.**
 - The veil was torn in two signifying that God was welcoming us in to His presence.
 - It’s not just that God now *allows* us to experience intimacy with Him - He *welcomes* it, *desires* it, He *longs for it*.
 - o **“The Father is seeking those”** who will worship Him.
- **God has given us a capacity, beyond all of creation, to be intimate with Him.**
 - o We often think that God’s primary intention in saving us was to help Him save the rest of the world or to help Him edify His church. ‘
 - o **News flash:** God doesn’t need us to accomplish His work.

- **Christ ultimately died to redeem humanity to Himself.**
 - And until we grasp that, we will never know what true life is.
 - **I used to think that the whole reason God saved me was so I could do stuff for His Kingdom.**
 - *Quick story of CityLight becoming an idol and God showing me that Christ died so I could be with Him not so I could “do” for Him.*
 - **A.W. Tozer’s spin on it:** “To hear some preachers today, you would think that Christ died so we would not smoke anymore. To hear some preachers today, you would think that Christ died so we would not drink anymore. But Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilot, died on the cross, and rose from the grave, not just to deliver us from sin, **but to make worshippers out of rebels.**”
- **When Jesus was asked in Matt 22** what the greatest commandment of the law was, Jesus replied by saying, **“You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”**
 - The first and greatest commandment isn’t to **“love the Lord Your God”** just because God said so, but it’s because this is where we find our purpose in life.
 - And the second commandment **“To love your neighbor as yourself”** can only be fulfilled in as much as we are loving the Lord our God first.
 - Jesus said, **He who has been forgiven much, forgives much, and he who has been loved much, loves much.**
 - In that same way, I believe that the degree to which we love our neighbor and do mission is directly related to the degree to which we love God and allow God to love us.
 - **God is not primarily interested in how much we can do for Him. He is primarily interested in our hearts and lives being fully committed to Him.**
- **Now, let me balance that by saying that** - God has left us here on this planet to be His hands and His feet. We are **the body** of Christ which means that God wants to touch, heal, and save the nations through our lives.
- But we can get so consumed with **doing mission**, that we forget that it is **Christ’s Mission**, and that we are **followers of Christ** in HIS MISSION.
 - It is Missio **Christi**, it is not the Mission of Reality or the Mission of Dominic, it is **the Mission of Christ**.
 - **It would be really easy for us to get so wrapped up in the work of God, that God kinda gets lost in it all and it just becomes work – and idolatrous work at that.**
- **The crazy thing is, that as we cultivate intimacy with Jesus our lives begin to overflow with who He is.**
 - Paul says it like this (**2 Cor. 2:15**) that **“We are the fragrance of Christ to those**

who are being saved and to those who are perishing.”

- As we cultivate intimacy with Jesus our fragrance becomes that of Christ Jesus Himself.

- **And only when we press into Jesus, can true mission and ministry flow from our lives.**
 - At Reality, it's become kind of a mantra that “True ministry flows from Intimacy”.
 - But the fear in that is that the mantra can become so familiar that it loses its potency and truthfulness.
 - Jesus said it like this: **John 15:15** “If you abide in Me, you *will* bear much fruit.”
 - **But notice how the action is on the abiding, not on the bearing of fruit.** He's saying, press into me, and your life will bear fruit.
 -
 - **Over the last several months, I've felt the Lord speaking this to me and saying, “Son, come be intimate with me.”**
 - **I don't know what you think about the Song of Solomon** – if it's just a story of Solomon and his lover or if it's a picture of Christ the church, and I'm not totally sure what I think about the Song of Solomon – but this passage has been ministered to me.
 - **Song of Solomon 2:8-9**
 - Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains,
Skipping upon the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows,
Gazing through the lattice.
 - This picture of the Bride Groom just running to meet His bride and then getting there and just looking for her – waiting for her.
- vv. 10-13**
- My beloved spoke, and he said to me:
“Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away.
For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtle dove
Is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth her green figs,
And the vines with the tender grapes
Give a good smell.
Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!”

- **For months now, I've just felt the Lord saying, "Come away with me my love."**
 - Maybe today, God is saying that same thing to some of you.
 - And maybe today, you're just like me and you've been saying, "Oh Lord, but there too much to do. My family needs me, the job need me, the ministry Lord – Your work – it needs me.
- **I want to look at the story of a girl who felt the same exact way as we turn to **Luke 10****

Read Luke 10:38-42

- Martha is just like so many of us – we're worried, we're troubled, but mostly we're distracted by so many things.
 - But Jesus said, "There is only **one thing** that is absolutely necessary – to sit at His feet and hear His word.
 - **In this life, and in the church, and in mission there is always going to be a million things that need to get done, but Jesus said only ONE is absolutely necessary.**
- **You want to be affective for Kingdom and Glory of God? First learn how to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His word.**
 - And I'm not talking about just reading a chapter of the Bible before you rush off to work. I'm talking about really pressing into Jesus.
- **Are you:**
 - Finding yourself with a short temper and no patience?
 - Maybe it's because your time with Jesus is short or lacking passion.
 - Finding yourself without joy?
 - Maybe it's because you're lacking intimacy with God whose presence brings the fullness of joy.
 - Finding that your strength is running dry?
 - Maybe it's because your devotional life is also running dry.
 - Maybe you're finding yourself discontent with your life?
 - It's probably because you're not feasting on Jesus Christ, sitting at His feet, hearing His word.
- **You know what I had to do?**
 - I had to start scheduling time with the Lord... like on my Calendar.
 - Jesus and Moses... they got up EARLY in the morning to be with God. Britt, he likes to get up at 4am before the sun comes up, cuz once the sun comes up, he starts to get distracted.
 - The morning may not be the best time for you.
 - For me, my brain doesn't actually start working until about 8am.
 - **Hudson Taylor** "What is your best time of the day? Give that to communion with God."
 - Dom – 4pm everyday.
 - So what's your best time? Give that to the Lord.
 - But if you don't schedule it, you may not ever get to it. You wanna know why???

- Because everything and everyone around you is gonna try to pull you away from that intimate time with Jesus.
 - Computer, your smart phone, your emails, your demands at work, the TV, your hobbies, your relationships.
 - There are a million things that can demand your attention and trust me, if you don't schedule time Jesus then Satan will make sure your schedule is full of everything else.
 - And if you're gonna wait until you have a free moment to be with Jesus, then Satan will make sure that you never have a free moment. I guarantee it.
 - **J. Oswald Sanders:** "We are at this moment as close to God as we really choose to be. True, there are times when we would like to know a deeper intimacy, but when it comes to the point, we are not prepared to pay the price involved."
- There are probably going to have to be some sacrifices.
 - **You may need to:**
 - ...work a little less
 - ...spend less time with your boyfriend or girlfriend
 - ...stop watching that TV show every night
 - ...not open the laptop when you get home or turn off the phone when you get home.
 - ... start getting up an hour earlier
- **You say,** "But I NEED to do that thing. I NEED to spend time there. Jesus said only there's only one thing you really NEED – and that's to sit at My feet and hear My word.
 - What? Do we really think that if we start spending more time with Jesus that He's not gonna make up where you're lacking?
 - *expound...*
 - Work less – you're not gonna be on the streets starving
 - Get up early – God will supply your lack of sleep and strength.
- Some of you need a little jump start. A little kick in the pants to get you going.
 - Fast – Just to be with Jesus
 - **Acts 13 "They were ministering to the Lord and fasting"**
 - What does that mean – Ministering = give to the Lord in their fasting.
 - Just fast breakfast and get away with Jesus. Take your lunch break and get away with Jesus.
 - Just get away and don't ask for anything. Just get away and bless the Lord.

It's a balancing act:

- We have to be careful because while we can get so consumed with the work of God that we forget about pressing into God, we can also (and probably more easily) get so consumed with ourselves and our own personal holiness and trying to cultivate intimacy with Jesus, that that we forget that we were actually left here as Ambassadors for Christ.
- We can forget that Christ has sent us into the world. If God was only concerned with us

spending time with Him then He would just take us home.

- But to truly bring Glory to God, to truly make His name more known in our lives, our communities, and in the nations, to truly be as affective as possible in our mission and our ministry, there is only one thing that is needed – to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His word.

-