

One Thing Is Needed

Luke 10:38-11:13 Our pastor has said that we have to remember to keep the main thing the main thing. When we look at our lives, we have to ask ourselves, "What is the main thing?" I had a friend who put on her refrigerator a sign that said, "What difference will this make 10,000 years from now?" Priorities change when we realize that our life here on earth is but a hands breadth. Those who know Jesus Christ personally will live forever with Him. Jesus told Martha that she was careful and troubled about many things, but Mary had chosen the one thing needful. Mary chose to sit at His feet and learn of Him. Without Him we can do nothing. When we realize this, we will spend more time sitting at His feet as Mary did.

What You Say Is What You Get

Proverbs 12:12-14 One of my constant prayers is that the law of kindness would be upon my tongue and that my conversations would be seasoned with grace. There is a proverb that says that pleasant words are health to our bones. This proverb says that we are satisfied with good by the fruit of our lips.

Laborers for the Harvest

Luke 9:51-10:12 From the time my three sons were toddlers, I prayed that all three would be used as laborers in the last great harvest. Jesus exhorts us to pray for the Lord of the

harvest to send forth laborers. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. The Lord sends the laborers. He speaks to the potential laborer and gives him the call for his special field.

Focus

Psalm 73:1-28 Where will your focus be today? Here the psalmist looks at the people around him. He compares himself with those who are ungodly and realizes they seem to be better off than he is. He reminds God of how he has cleansed his own heart, but he cannot see the benefits of living a righteous life. His complaint to God is the same as that of many Christians today: "What's the use in trying to be good and going God's way when nothing is working out?" But then he goes into the sanctuary and draws near to God. He realizes that the wicked will eventually perish, but he will not. He thanks God for His faithfulness in holding his hand through hard times, for His guidance, counsel and strength. Then he shares this wonderful statement: "It is good to draw near to God; to put our trust in Him and to declare His works." The psalmist first sees only the people who are close to him and the circumstances around him. At the end of this psalm, he is given a supernatural pair of glasses to see beyond those things he is experiencing. He focuses on the God who is in control of all things. To receive healing for his eyesight, however, he had to go into the sanctuary and draw near to God. He had to retreat from his circumstances and the people who surrounded him and get alone with God. In the sanctuary there were no distractions and his attention was focused only on God.

Like Rain on Fresh Mown Grass

Psalm 72:1-20 Vladimir, our Russian son, has been our gardener for the seven years he has lived with us. I remember the first time he cut the grass; he was so very proud of his accomplishment. Shortly after the grass was mowed, a shower came; we both stood in the carport and breathed in the elegant smell of rain on freshly mowed grass. There is nothing to compare with this smell. This psalm gives a beautiful description of what will happen to people who fear the Lord. One of the promises of God to those who fear Him is, "They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth" (vv. 5-6, KJV).

Fear Not, Believe Only

Luke 8:41-9:6 Jairus had just heard the news that his daughter was dead. Can you imagine his amazement when he heard Jesus say, "Fear not, believe only?" This story has a happy ending because Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead.

Where Is Your Faith?

Luke 8:22-40 We have had the opportunity to cross the Sea of Galilee many times. Our guide usually points out the fact that storms can come up quite suddenly on the sea because of the Golan Heights that surround the sea. Jesus was peacefully sleeping through the storm while His disciples were frantically bailing water out of the boat. Jesus rebuked the wind and the raging waters and suddenly all was calm. Then Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?"

Do You Have the Stiff-Necked Disease?

We all suffer from pride from time to time. God has a special name for the ailment of pride in our lives. He calls it the "Stiff-necked Disease." We catch the "Stiff-necked Disease" when we have unbending wills and refuse to submit to God. Pride is the root of this disease, and humility is the cure. A little boy was asked to sit down and be quiet by his mother.

He did sit down, but he replied angrily, "I'm sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside." God is not as concerned about outward obedience as He is our inward obedience and the motivation for our obedience. Do we obey God with a willing heart out of love, or do we obey Him grudgingly with murmuring and complaining? The little boy in the story was still in control of his attitude. He had not submitted his attitude to God. He was in rebellion even though his outward actions indicated that he was obedient. If we obey outwardly, but still have an ungrateful, rebellious attitude on the

inside, we are victims of the “Stiff-necked Disease.”

When people have a stiff neck in the physical, they usually cannot turn their heads. The neck determines the moment of the head. When we are stiff-necked spiritually and refuse to go God’s way, Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church, cannot move in our lives.

Moses and God were in agreement. They both called Israel a stiff-necked people. I pray God does not see me this way. Only our great physician, Jesus, can deliver and heal us from the “Stiff-necked Disease.” Jesus is the only one who can teach us meekness and lowliness of heart, and we can only learn this lesson as we sit at His feet. When we are in pride, we have two enemies—God and the devil. God resists the proud, and the devil uses pride to bring strife, confusion and every evil work into our lives.

Will you listen and answer Jesus’ call to you today? “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30, KJV).

**READ: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Psalm 69:15-36;
Proverbs 12:2-3**

The Stiff Necked Disease

We all suffer from pride from time to time. God has a special name for the ailment of pride in our lives. He calls it the “Stiff-necked Disease.” We catch the “Stiff-necked Disease” when we have unbending wills and refuse to submit to God.

Pride is the root of this disease, and humility is the cure. A little boy was asked to sit down and be quiet by his mother.

He did sit down, but he replied angrily, "I'm sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside." God is not as concerned about outward obedience as He is our inward obedience and the motivation for our obedience. Do we obey God with a willing heart out of love, or do we obey Him grudgingly with murmuring and complaining? The little boy in the story was still in control of his attitude. He had not submitted his attitude to God. He was in rebellion even though his outward actions indicated that he was obedient. If we obey outwardly, but still have an ungrateful, rebellious attitude on the inside, we are victims of the "Stiff-necked Disease."

When people have a stiff neck in the physical, they usually cannot turn their heads. The neck determines the moment of the head. When we are stiff-necked spiritually and refuse to go God's way, Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church, cannot move in our lives.

Moses and God were in agreement. They both called Israel a stiff-necked people. I pray God does not see me this way. Only our great physician, Jesus, can deliver and heal us from the "Stiff-necked Disease." Jesus is the only one who can teach us meekness and lowliness of heart, and we can only learn this lesson as we sit at His feet. When we are in pride, we have two enemies—God and the devil. God resists the proud, and the devil uses pride to bring strife, confusion and every evil work into our lives.

Will you listen and answer Jesus' call to you today? "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30, KJV).

**READ: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Psalm 69:15-36;
Proverbs 12:2-3**

He That Is Forgiven Much Loves Much

Luke 7:36-8:3 In response to the those who questioned His willingness to allow a woman who was a sinner to wash His feet, Jesus told a parable: "There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged" (Luke 7:41-43, KJV).