



"The Good Part"

by Jan
Patterson

"Nothing can be more important in our lives than this precious time we spend with God. We learn, we grow, we are convicted and challenged, and then we can go and share what we have learned with others."

~MMM



*“. . . a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen **the good part**, which shall not be taken away from her."*

~Luke 10:38-42

I. What is “the good part”?

A. It is _____ at Jesus’ feet and _____
_____.

1. This is all we are told of Mary’s activity in this passage, but her example is the primary reason for the passage – to show that the Word of God is of primary importance in our busy lives. She was sitting – the position of a _____, a learner. She was hearing His word – giving her _____ to what He wanted her to learn, turning from all else, before she gave Him her service.
2. What could have been more proper than to attend to the needs of such a guest as the Lord Jesus Himself? But it “distracted” Martha from the best thing she could do, the most necessary thing at that time.
3. Our babies and young children are more demanding than the gentle and undemanding Jesus was as a guest in Martha and Mary’s home, but it is important to so arrange our routine that our care for family does not result in neglecting the care of our souls.

B. It is a _____.

1. Mary’s love for the Lord motivated her choice of what was best.
2. We have to be discerning, but also, there is no easy way to do this; it is sometimes a matter of the will.

*"Where this is chosen all else follows; where
this is set aside and neglected all else is
useless, empty, deceptive, vain."*

~Lenski's St. Luke's Gospel, p. 619.



"Nothing is as important in our daily lives as is attending to Christ's words that are of eternal consequence. Read, study, hide in your heart the Word of God. It is the very fiber of our being."

~Pastor Minnick

II. Why is it so important?

A. Necessary for Christian virtue

II Peter 1:2-3 " _____ and _____ be multiplied to you through the _____ of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us _____ pertaining to _____ and _____ through the true _____ of Him . . ."

We imbibe Christian virtues (grace, peace, everything) that are absolutely necessary for functioning as a Christian wife and mother (life and godliness) through knowledge of our Savior. There is only one avenue of this "knowledge" (which means to know exactly, ascertain, understand), and that is the Word of God.

B. Commanded for our transformation

1. Romans 12:2 “. . . be _____ by the _____ of your mind . . .” We are being “metamorphasized” as we let the Word change our thinking.
2. II Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being _____ into the same image from glory to glory . . .”
3. The Word does change us, whether we realize it or not. As we spend time in His Word, we see, and are actually changed into the glorious image of Christ!
4. Do you feel like you are changing and becoming more Christlike? We normally don't — we still fail, we commit the same sins, we still are burdened with our flesh. But this is a promise, an act of God that He is accomplishing.

Examples:

C. Necessary for our being equipped

1. II Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate,
_____ for _____
_____.”

2. Our “good works” with our home and family are dependent on this equipping through the Scriptures.
3. Quote from a BJU student who learned a good lesson his freshman year: “First semester, I buried myself in books and found a slot to squeeze in my devotions. But [then] I decided to set a time for them and build the rest of my schedule around it. Things really get busy, but you have to *guard your time* with God. *Whether you make it or not depends on that time, when you draw strength and grace from God.*”
4. George Mueller said, “. . . the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. For I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted, I might seek to benefit believers, I might seek to relieve the distressed, I might seek in other ways to behave myself as it becomes a child of God in this world; and yet, not being nourished and strengthened in the inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in a right spirit.”





"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

~Matthew 6:33

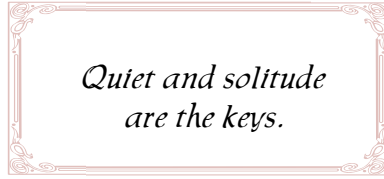
III. When, where, and how can I do this???

A. When do we seek the Lord?

1. Psalm 5:3 "in the _____ . . ." One word for "seek" in the O. T. actually means "early" or "dawn." Many scriptures imply that the morning is a good time to seek the Lord in the Word and prayer. It is a _____ to our day.
2. Isaiah 26:9 "at _____ . . . my spirit seeks you diligently;" Psalm 63:6 "I meditate on You in the _____."
3. Psalm 55:17 "_____ and _____ and at _____;" Joshua 1:8 "meditate on it _____;" I Chronicles 16:11 "seek His face _____."

B. Where do we seek the Lord?

1. Matt. 6:6 "go into your _____, close your door and pray"
2. Psalm 32:7 "_____ are my hiding place"
3. _____ have to choose the time and the place. You need to be alert, as alone as possible, and in a quiet place. So _____, arrange your _____, and be _____.



4. It can be hard with infants and young children and their very real needs. But IT DOESN'T GET EASIER. ☹ The distractions just change: two hours before an appointment and you have a dirty house; your husband calls with an immediate need; "if I can just get the laundry started" and then a million other things distract along the way; the phone and computer; numerous pressing responsibilities; even letters to write!
5. Difficulty concentrating? Fighting drowsiness? You will probably always have to battle your particular weakness. The devil doesn't relent, and there is no magic formula. Remember our friend "Choice," and develop strategies that help.

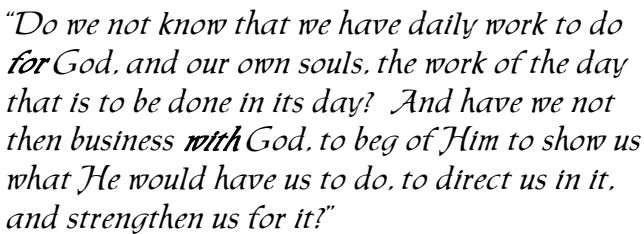
C. How do we seek the Lord?

1. With all the _____ and _____. Words in the Scriptures for "seek" include investigate, seek diligently, demand, keep trying, make careful search.
2. Bible study methods – reading schedule, word studies, book studies, character sketches, etc.

3. Memorization – it is helpful to always have something you are working on, because you can meditate and review almost anytime your mind is free.

4. Books – commentary series (ask for your own copy of Barnes, or Matthew Henry, Tyndale, JFB, and keep it with your Bible in your “place,” always available to use along with your reading); concordance and/or Vine’s Expository Dictionary (for explanation of word meanings); Daily Light; and a notebook to record daily gleanings, and to keep a prayer list in.

5. Study books, if you have time, such as *Changed Into His Image* or *Pursuit of God*, etc., to work on little by little.



*“Do we not know that we have daily work to do **for** God, and our own souls, the work of the day that is to be done in its day? And have we not then business **with** God, to beg of Him to show us what He would have us to do, to direct us in it, and strengthen us for it?”*

~ Matthew Henry