

# Homily I – One Thing

- ✓ Prayer: Holy Spirit, anoint these moments we are opening God’s Word, bless us with divine insight. We ask in Jesus’ name. AMEN
- ✓ TEXT: John 13:1 (Pause)
- ✓ It was time for supper, the Passover meal that preceded the Passover celebration
- ✓ Jesus knew that his hour had come
- ✓ (v.3) Jesus also knew that the Father had given him authority over everything—
- ✓ That he had come from God and would return to God
- ✓ Perhaps now would be the time for Jesus to exercise his authority over everything—Matt. 4:1-8
  - a. Take a slope-full of those Judean stones from a hillside outside Jerusalem and turn them into the bread they look like from a distance—*instant miracle King*
  - b. Or climb to the Temple pinnacle and take a leap and defy gravity’s pull, dismissing any angel’s aid and escape unharmed—*instant miracle Monarch Warrior*
  - c. But above all, he could ascend to the highest Everest-like peak and claim power over all the kingdoms of the earth and receive glorious acclaim from all earthly and universal powers—*instant miracle Royal Potentate*
- ✓ Why not?
- ✓ John 13:3 again—Jesus knew that the Father had given him *authority over everything*
- ✓ Why not?
- ✓ Because Jesus was and is all about—One Thing
- ✓ What is that “One Thing” for Jesus?
- ✓ Let’s observe the next verse here in John 13—v.4
- ✓ John tells us—

“So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.”

- ✓ Let me see if I understand what Jesus, who has authority over everything does here
- ✓ He stands up from the table he is reclined at, where he has been sitting at the same level of his disciples, his followers

- ✓ And he disrobes, his outer cloak he removes, he's going to stay, to remain, he's not going outside right away
- ✓ Instead he now turns to the servants position in the room, where an assistant butler was earlier when the disciples entered the room
- ✓ But the fellow is mysteriously gone, and Jesus wraps the assistant butler's towel around his own waist
- ✓ And picks up the pitcher of water and pours water into a basin
- ✓ Then he lowers himself, and doesn't hand the basin and towel to one of his youngest disciples, John or Nathanael, No!
- ✓ Instead he kneels down before John and then Nathanael and so on around the table—and washes each of their pairs of feet
- ✓ He doesn't call out asking, "Hey, Peter, can you take this towel and dry each pair of these feet as I wash them?"
- ✓ No! He washes each pair of feet and dries them too—
  - a. He humbles himself—lowering himself, who has all authority
  - b. He positions himself with all authority below everyone else in the room
  - c. He takes the role of a servant—doing what none of his disciples were willing to do themselves
  - d. He washes, refreshes and revitalizing their foundation points, their feet
- ✓ One thing, and one thing only matters to Jesus
- ✓ That everyone who is in with him, is in on being clean before God
- ✓ Because Jesus would say this as he rose from having washed each disciple's pair of feet
- ✓ Verse 8b—"Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."
- ✓ Here's why the one thing Jesus did, when it says the Father had given him authority over everything—washing and drying feet, matters
- ✓ It's a passage way into the Lord's Supper—it validates that we too have the *one thing* Jesus had in mind—
- ✓ **Humility**—taking the lowest position in relation to anyone in our lives
- ✓ **Servanthood**—taking the role of servant that was the one role Jesus took even when he had authority over everything
- ✓ **Clean before God**—every part of our being is made whole through this experience

- ✓ **Belonging to Jesus**—there is not one thing that is more important than this, belonging to Jesus
- ✓ Here at Valley, we enjoy this time of the Ordinance of Humility-Foot Washing
- ✓ And you have several options—
  1. You can join a men’s or ladies group in one of the rooms to your right out these back doors and through the second, fourth and fifth doors on your left
  2. Or you can join as a family or as friends or couples in the fellowship hall to the left out these back doors
  3. A third option is to remain here and witness the telling of the story about communion in our Children’s Story here in the Sanctuary—up front here by the organ
- ✓ Pray with me: Thank you Jesus for taking the steps you did when you had been given authority over everything—because the one thing you had on your mind was every one of us in tending to everyone of your disciples. Help us to follow your example, Jesus. Soles of feet matter, because souls of people and their destiny matter most. AMEN

## Homily II – One Thing

- ✓ A group of friends were deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day
- ✓ That night one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under an eight-point buck
- ✓ “Where’s Chip? He was asked
- ✓ “Oh Chip, he collapsed for some reason. He’s a couple of miles back up the trail.”
- ✓ “You left Chip lying there, and carried the deer back?”
- ✓ “Well,” said the hunter, “I figured no one was going to steal Chip.”
- ✓ What matters most? Where do your priorities lie?
- ✓ In recent years a head coach divorced his wife of 26 years when he left coaching a college team to become a head coach in the National Football League
- ✓ He said he needed a wife while coaching on the college level for social functions and to show families that he would be looking out for their sons
- ✓ In pro football, however, she was an unnecessary accoutrement and a distraction to winning
- ✓ He said winning football was his number one priority and his two sons second
- ✓ H-h-u-u!
- ✓ In contrast to this, Tom Landry, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys said, “The thrill of knowing Jesus is the greatest thing that ever happened to me...I think God has put me in a very special place, and He expects me to use it to His glory in everything I do...whether coaching football or talking to the press. I am always a Christian...Christ is first, family second and football third.”
- ✓ In our scripture lesson today, Luke 10:38-42
- ✓ Jesus, his disciples, and his assistants, a group of women (seen in Luke 8:1-3) have come to the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus
- ✓ They have come and the family has planned on serving them a meal
- ✓ A meal in the middle east is always an event, that last for several hours
- ✓ Also, Jesus, his disciples along with his assistants amount to a group of 20 or more
- ✓ So, when the passage says in verse 40—it was a “big dinner”—I think you get the idea, this is not afternoon tea
- ✓ It’s the main meal, the main event in this household for that week, and possibly for that entire period of the year

- ✓ Why? Because it's Jesus—but also because of the timing
- ✓ It also says in verse 38—Their “on their way to Jerusalem”
- ✓ This was a very important moment in this family's household—they wanted everything to be just right
- ✓ And Martha, it says, answered the door—she “welcomed him (Jesus) into her home”
- ✓ Her home, the home she was head of, responsible for, who had been working since late the night before
- ✓ And rose early with only a few hours of sleep—preparing the meal, the house, the setting, to be just right
- ✓ As Jesus enters, along with his disciples and assistants—can you picture this, the men gather and sit—lounging till dinner is ready
- ✓ Jesus' assistants, the women, primarily enter the kitchen with Martha
- ✓ Ladies and men in Judean culture are gender oriented in their social culture—men together and women together
- ✓ So, when they have all settled in, the story goes that Mary it says, (verse 39) “sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught”
- ✓ Martha waits for her sister to come in and help and with each moment that passes, Martha becomes more agitated, Mary is not coming
- ✓ Now Mary knows her sister Martha, doesn't she?
- ✓ Certainly! She knows what can bring Martha to a boiling point
- ✓ But you and me, we must understand the back story here
- ✓ Mary, we are told in John 11:2 is the Mary, the woman who John tells us—“poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair”
- ✓ Here in Luke, chapter 7, verse 37 tells of this very moment when Mary, “a certain immoral woman...brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume”
- ✓ She had knelt behind Jesus, where his feet were, as he reclined at the table on one elbow and ate
- ✓ And she began weeping, and her tears fell on his feet and she wiped them off with her hair
- ✓ She then kissed his feet and poured perfume on Jesus' feet
- ✓ The scene was most precious, most beautiful to Jesus and yet—Simon, Jesus' host was repulsed and horrified at this himself

- ✓ Jesus though instantly, resorts to telling a simple story of forgiveness, one who is forgiven much, the other person, forgiven little
- ✓ These are pictures of Mary and Simon in the same story
- ✓ One's sins which are seen as many is forgiven much
- ✓ The other, who sins are seen as little is forgiven little
- ✓ Simon knows right away—his priorities are a 180 degrees off—he had had his back to Jesus, he needed to turn completely around and face Jesus
- ✓ Jesus though, turns to Mary and speaks to her (Luke 7:48) “Your sins (v.47-and they are many) are forgiven.”
- ✓ As Mary is sitting now here in her own home at Jesus' feet, she can remember when Jesus spoke to her as she left Simon's house that day—“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”
- ✓ She was living out that faith now being with Jesus
- ✓ So, meanwhile, back to our original story—Martha is taking a peek, and she observes what she has thought all along—she's sitting, idling her time away with Jesus
- ✓ And Martha is steaming...
- ✓ Until she can stand it no longer, and Martha does something, we find quite rare in relationship to Jesus
- ✓ (verse 40, Luke 10) “Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work?”
- ✓ It would have been good for Martha to stop there
- ✓ But no, she continues—“Tell her to come and help me.”
- ✓ She's trying to tell Jesus what to do
- ✓ Have there been times in your life, when you've caught yourself trying to tell Jesus what to do?
- ✓ Be honest now—just the other day in that moment, in that very instance
- ✓ You see, even we get agitated and feel justified as it were to tell Jesus what we think he ought to do
- ✓ But listen, Jesus doesn't take it personal, but I wonder if he feels we should?
- ✓ Cause he said then, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details!
- ✓ And Jesus says it emphatically—with emphasis

- ✓ Details, details, details—so many details to put a spread on like you’re doing here today in your home
- ✓ And for this Jesus was grateful, thankful
- ✓ But he is even more thankful for the Mary moments—because they are the moments that really, really matter most
- ✓ So Jesus says, (v.42) “There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”
- ✓ What? Where? Show me! What Mary is the one thing that matters most of all?
- ✓ Can I say it? Can you see it? Can we believe it?
- ✓ One Thing—*Resting in Jesus, with a forgiven, freed, peace-filled heart*
- ✓ Prayer: Lord Jesus—would you give us each, today, by way of your Cross, this *one thing*.  
AMEN