

The Good Portion

Introduction

If you have your Bibles... I want to say how grateful I am to be your pastor, God has given much grace to this church. He has blessed us immensely. He has given us much, but we should remember that to whom much is given, much is required. Our prayer is that because of what God is doing here in these walls, God's glory can resound in places outside these walls, both near and far. That no matter who you are, where you come from, what job you have, or what car you drive, you will live your life in a way that increases the inhabitants of the kingdom of God.

How is your heart with the Lord this morning?

- Not your status, not your title, not your ministry opportunities. How is your heart with the Lord?
- My seasons. I have had portions of life...
- My guess, in a room this size that there are some like me right now. Perhaps many.

Context (Love for us drove Jesus to come to earth... It drove Him to heal the sick, cast out demons, forgive sins, raise the dead, It drove Him to set His face toward Jerusalem, Walking through samaria - Rejected, Love God, Good samaritan, Mary at His feet)

This morning we will be learning what it means to abide with our God.

Luke 10:38-11:4

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 2 And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread,

4 and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

Context/Story

- The Good Portion is Jesus

- One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” Here’s what Jesus is saying, “Martha, there’s a lot you can do, but there’s something that’s most important. In fact, Martha, you could take everything you’ve ever written on every to-do list and combine their importance and they’re not as important as getting time with me.”
- Mary chose the good portion. And here he’s using curious language because what’s Martha been doing all day? Preparing a meal for Jesus and his friends, and I’m sure she was going to serve Jesus the good portion
- **We do not come to Jesus thinking all our actions and deeds will be a blessing to Him. “I’m going to bless God!”, God does not care about our works! They do not please Him!**
 - Children painting a picture for their parents.
- **We come to Jesus recognizing that we need something from Him. Not that He needs something from us.**

The Good Portion is Jesus (10:38-42)

1. Explain
 - a. Mary is worried about the presence of God. Being in the presence of Jesus, growing in love with Jesus, listening to Jesus, being taught by Jesus, enjoying the presence of Jesus. She’s in the living room.
 - b. Martha’s in the kitchen. **What she’s working on is not enjoying the presence of God, but preparing presents for God.** “Hey Jesus, I have a clean bed. Hey Jesus, I made dinner. Hey Jesus, I made a cake for you. I have a lot of presents for you. I don’t enjoy the presence of you, I’m creating presents for you.”
 - c. I think the point of the Bible here is ***Mary first, Martha second. Spend time with Jesus, then get stuff done. To worship like Mary and then to work like Martha.*** If all Mary ever does is sits there and studies and never does anything, she’s sinful in a completely different way.
 - i. This would be like the guy who’s in his thirty-second year of Bible college. It’s like, “Dude, seriously, go do something.”
 - d. **Worship, then work.** Worship God before you work so that you could worship God in your work. And do the work that God has called you to do, not chasing your potential, but pursuing your calling. **Not volunteering yourself as the savior of the world to plug every hole and meet every need. That job’s already taken.**
2. Prove
 - a. Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.
 - b. John 6:27 - Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”
3. Apply
 - a. We live in a Martha world. America is the most overworked country in the developed world.. ***Americans work more hours every year than any other developed country on earth.*** We take our laptops on vacation if we go on

vacation. We have our phones and our technology connected at home, in the car, in the bathroom. On our day off, at 3 in the morning we get a text, and we have to respond.. And what happens? We're troubled. We're anxious. We're distracted. And it leads to all kinds of difficulty. Stress, anxiety, depression, bouts with anger, heart disease, sickness, loneliness, and suicide.

- b. We live under the myth that if we just keep punching out our Martha list, eventually it'll be all done and we'll get our life back. I lived under that myth for over a decade...
 - i. As a pastor... (60 hours per week, late nights, long days.)
 - ii. And the truth is, you're never gonna get everything done that you've got on your list. And ***if Jesus is last, you'll never get to Him.*** Instead, make sure that time with Jesus is first. Going to church, sitting, first. Going to small group, sitting, first. Getting time with Jesus and his people, first things first.
- c. How do we sit at the Master's feet today? God's Word. Abide in his word.
 - i. Hudson Taylor - "Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him."
 - ii. George Mueller - "Now what is food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water passes through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering it over and applying it to our hearts." ~ George Muller
 - iii. J Vernon McGee - "The great sin of the average Christian is ignorance of the word of God." ~ J. Vernon McGee
4. The word of the Lord is enough for all life and Godliness. It is a two edged sword rightly dividing truth from error. It is how we hear from the Lord. IT IS OUR DAILY BREAD, it is the light for our path. It is the good portion that we must take each day!
 - a. We draw every belief from it - CHAPTER AND VERSE
 - b. D1 IS COMING

The Good Portion in Prayer (11:1-4)

- a. There's a longer version of it in Matthew's gospel. Luke is writing after Matthew, already knowing that Matthew has written his gospel, and so rather than including the whole prayer, he gives us a brief summary of it. So if you are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, you say, "Well, this doesn't sound like the way I learned it." That is probably why. The longer version is in Matthew.
- b. ***God's word is primarily how God speaks to us, And prayer is how we speak back to God***
- c. **Father**
 - i. We pray to God as father.
 1. Not to self (meditation, yoga, connect with inner self) garbage

2. impersonal force that's in the mountains and the trees (gaia, mother earth, star wars, avatar-ism) We don't pray to a force
3. We don't pray with other religions (Hindus, muslims, mormons, jehovah's witness) they have a different father.

d. Hallowed be thy name

- i. Our father is holy - the attribute of God that is mentioned more than every other attribute of God in the whole Bible is the holiness of God (not yin yang, not good and evil combined. God is only good never bad)
 1. This means that we can trust Him!
- ii. it glorifies God and it humbles us to begin with an acknowledgement of how good our Father truly is

e. Your kingdom come

- i. Our Father is a King - how fantastic would it be if you were a kid who got adopted and your new dad was taking you to his home, "where do we live now?" "oh I have a huge palace..."
- ii. Our father is the King of Kings. He rules and reigns over all kingdoms. His authority is over angels and demons and presidents and politicians and races and nations and the past and the future. He has a kingdom that cannot be thwarted and a kingdom that will never end. That's our Father.
 1. What will the kingdom be like?...

f. Give us this day our daily bread

- i. Our Father is the giver of all good gifts
 1. Some of us struggle for tomorrows meal, but some of us have far more than we need. Because God has already provided. We need the daily reminder that our provision comes from the Lord.
 - a. Prayer is a guard against pride that we can sustain us.
 2. Are you generous like God is generous?

g. Forgive us our sins

- i. Our Father forgives sin
 1. Spiritual Debt - Imagine if you got a monthly statement from God...

h. We forgive others sins

- i. For those who have been sinned against...You can't say, "God, I want you to forgive me, but I refuse to forgive them."
- ii. *For this to be helpful and practical, I need the Holy Spirit now to bring to mind for you the name, the face of the person who has sinned against you most grievously, perhaps even most repeatedly, wounded you most deeply. And what I'm about to share with you, I need you to apply to them.*
- iii. **There are only two options: forgiveness or bitterness.**
 - a. If you choose unforgiveness, which leads to bitterness, your relationship with God and others will suffer.
 - b. If you choose forgiveness, your relationship with God will thrive and it will free you to love as God loves.
- i. What forgiveness is not: (8 things)

- i. **It is not diminishing sin** - “no biggie” (God died for it)
- ii. **It is not enabling sin** - addicts, Forgiveness mean rebuke, confronting sin.
- iii. **It is not waiting for an apology** - “they have to say sorry first” some people will never apologize. We forgive anyways.
 - 1. Luke 23:34 - =Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
- iv. **It is not forgetting** - “forgive and forget” We can’t
 - 1. Jeremiah - God will remember our sin no more.
 - 2. God chooses not to interact with us based upon what we’ve done, but instead interact with us based upon what Christ has done.
 - 3. At the forefront of His thinking, is not all of the sin that we’ve committed, but all the work that Jesus has done for us and in us
- v. **It is not ceasing to feel the pain**
 - 1. We all hurt, forgiveness is not going to fix the pain. Tears won't be wiped away until the new heaven and earth have arrived. We will be crying all the way to Jesus!
- vi. **It is not a one time event** - This may be the most difficult one of all for some of us...sometimes they keep sinning and you need to keep forgiving.
- vii. **It is not reconciliation** - It takes one person to repent, it takes one person to forgive, but it takes two to reconcile.
- viii. **Forgiveness is not neglecting justice** - “if I forgive them, where is the justice?” Justice comes from Jesus. Either they will become Christians and Jesus will pay the price with His own blood, or they won't, and they will be held accountable on the last day.
 - 1. When we forgive, we are leaving it to the perfect judge to enact perfect justice, either on the cross, or in hell. Either way, Justice will be served.

2. Apply

- a. If you want to know how to pray, don't look at a religion. Look at the Father, and start talking. It is not about a rulebook to follow, it is not about facing a certain direction on a mat a certain number of times a day. They are not praying, they are doing aerobics.
 - i. I remember when I was younger, I learned the four types of prayers. Adoration, Contrition, Intercession, Thanksgiving. I turned every prayer into a checklist. Legalistic.
- b. The Father knows what you need before you ask Him, (well whats the point?)
The primary purpose of prayer is not to get something, but to be with someone.
- c. Prayer is about a child, talking to their father.

- i. Can you imagine my kids talking to me like, “dearest father, I beseech thee for a cheeseburger” There is a rule in my house, “don’t be weird” they would be breaking the rule!
- ii. No pretense, not barriers, no rules. Come talk to your father. Be genuine, be honest, be frequent. He loves you.

Our Father Leads Well (Conclusion)

We went to the carnival two weeks ago. I remember that I was in a bad mood. But when we got out of the car, both Levi and Kyla grabbed my hands and as we were walking into the carnival, I just thought about being able to lead them, and show them all the wonderful rides, food, and experiences. All day long I was holding my kids hands, and showing them new and exciting experiences. They loved it, and they knew instinctively, “we don’t need to know our way around, we don’t need a map, we don’t need to worry about our safety, our dad will keep us safe, as long as we are holding Dad’s hand, we will be fine. Laughing, smiling, enjoying the rides. That’s us with God.

We serve a God who leads well. We need to take His hand, and let Him lead us.

Pray



LUKE 10:38-11:4 The Good Portion

INTRODUCTION The gospel has the power to save and transform our lives but it must land on receptive hearts. We are reminded in the Parable of the Sower that if our hearts are not tender then the gospel will not take root.

DISCUSSION

- How is the gospel like a lamp?

EXPLANATION

- What is the light we are supposed to shine?
- How does hearing relate to hiding or displaying the light of the gospel?
- Why does Jesus take such a strong stance between his earthly family and His spiritual family?
- What does this passage tell us about the connection between faith and obedience?

APPLICATION

- In what ways can the gospel naturally be on display in your day-to-day life?
- How or when are you tempted to hide the gospel in your life?
- What can we do as a community to encourage one another to be a light to the world?

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)