

"TAKE A BREATH ... PRIORITY #1" - JULY 21, 2019
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GENESIS 18:1-10A; COLOSSIANS 1:15-28; LUKE 10:38-42
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

We hear them all the time. I use them quite readily. Maybe you do to? No one wants to assume anything or to offend anyone or to paint ourselves into a corner. I know I don't. Maybe you don't want to either. Qualifiers. We make a bold statement, and then we make sure everyone understands, 'it's not a sure thing.' We say things like, 'Absolutely, but it depends.' When it comes to choosing and discussing our priorities, the use of qualifiers often increases. 'This is most important, unless of course you are counting that.' 'Nothing is more important than this, unless that opportunity becomes available.' 'This is it! Nothing else matters! For now.' Jesus today reminds us what matters the most. Jesus tells us, "There is need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part..." "One" thing; "the" better part. There are no qualifiers used here. Trust Jesus tells us loud and clear today, as he always does, what really matters. Take a deep breath in the unqualified grace of this truth: Jesus has already made you his number one priority!

1. What are your priorities? What is most important to you?
 - A. Can you think of your "top 5" list? Can you put them in order?
 - B. This is a tough question - to put things in order of importance.
 - C. Mary made Jesus her number one priority. Luke 10:42
 - D. Take a deep breath in grace, trusting it is not difficult for God to put you at the top of His list.

2. Why are these your priorities? What is your criteria for making something a priority?
 - A. This can be a tougher question.
 - B. Martha liked doing, to honor, to glorify, to praise, perhaps - even if it meant not sitting, not taking in, not breathing in The One Sure Thing, The Better Part, in her presence.

- C. Mary made Jesus important. She was interested in him and loved him. Her interests and her passions were her criteria.
 - D. God's criteria is simple - God makes important what God has an interest, a love and a passion for - you! Genesis 18:3
3. How do Jesus, God's Word, God's Gift of Baptism, God's Call to Discipleship, The Gift of Faith, The Concept of Sin and The Freedom of Forgiveness, The Promises of Life, Transformation, Salvation, and Life Everlasting fit into your priorities? Colossians 1:17, 28
4. Jesus is The Messenger, The Message: God and God's way are #1! As we trust this, surrender to it, we see what is already so:
- A. "We love because God first loved us." We make God first, because God makes us first. God says you are his #1 priority, in the cross and in his love for you, you have been made #1.
 - B. Take a deep breath in the unqualified grace of this truth: Jesus has made you his number one priority!