

FIVE HEADS- with but a single thought
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(MARK 10: 21 ; JOHN 9: 25; LUKE 10: 42; PSALM 27: 4;
PHILIPPIANS 3: 13)

It is far better to have one aim in life, and to achieve an ambition, than to attempt innumerable things and miss them all! Centrality of purpose is always a commendable feature, and it is truly significant that five of the leading Bible characters excelled in this respect. When these are grouped together we are provided with a sequence of thought which embraces the entire range of Christian experience.

One Thing Thou Lackest "

When the Lord Jesus told the rich young ruler to keep the Commandments, the earnest seeker replied, " Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved ; for he had great possessions." This illustrious young man possessed everything except that which mattered most. His home was filled with valuables, while his soul remained poor. Life begins when man responds to the call of Christ to take up the cross and follow in the path of discipleship. No amount of money, no degree of popularity, no worldly honors can ever compensate for the loss of eternal treasure.

One Thing I Know

The street was filled with people ; the religious leaders were protesting against the enthusiasm aroused by the latest miracle of Jesus. The people were fools swayed by every, wind of doctrine! This was a storm in a teacup! " Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." In contrast to the rich young ruler, this man was willing to sacrifice anything in order to follow Christ; and his unashamed testimony surely brought joy to the Saviour's heart. Military leaders say that attack is often the best defense. This is true of spiritual warfare.

One Thing is Needful "

The charming home in Bethany had suddenly become a place of strain. The atmosphere was tense, and there seemed every likelihood of a first-class quarrel. When twenty people were waiting for their meal, and many tasks demanded attention in the kitchen, " Mary sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." Martha's patience suddenly failed, and looking into the Lord's face, she said, " Dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered . . . thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Spiritual appetite is always an indication of a healthy soul. In any case, Mary would have been useless in the kitchen, when her heart was in the parlour!

One Thing Have I Desired "

David's soul was a ship adrift on turbulent waters. Surging emotions played havoc with his peace of mind, and

FIVE HEADS- with but a single thought memories of spiritual lapses haunted him. He had reason to believe that " in his body dwelt no good thing " ; he had been born in sin and shapen in iniquity; evil was ever present with him. "His heart and his flesh cried out for the living God." Where could he find eternal security? Where could the yearnings of his soul be fully satisfied? When his eyes instinctively turned toward the sanctuary, he cried, " One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." David might have been the elder brother of Mary of Bethany. They attended the same school-only he was in a higher standard. Of course, after all, he was a bit older!

"One Thing I Do"

It Is fitting that Paul, the indomitable missionary, should provide the final link in this chain of spiritual desire. He had graduated in God's school, and was determined to translate his lessons into ceaseless endeavor. He said, "Brethren . . .this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching,, forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Paul never permitted interference with the realization of his greatest ambitions, and ultimately he was able to say, " I have finished my course . . . henceforth there is laid up for me a crown." To a traveller, one guiding star is better than a million comets which have no meaning.

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