

'It's Just One Thing'

In the classic Billy Crystal movie *City Slickers*, three longtime friends face middle age. And in their middle-age crisis, they find themselves losing their focus and in danger of losing their families.

To reignite the fire in their lives, the guys sign up as cowboys, helping a dude ranch move its herd of cattle from high in the hills down to the lower valley.

Curly, the grizzled old cowboy who leads them, seems to be the toughest, canniest, wisest person they have ever met. Billy Crystal asks the usually tight-lipped cowpoke what his secret is. What makes his life so strong and centered and sure?

Curly smiles, raises his grubby, gloved index finger and proclaims, "It is just one thing," then he rides away.

Billy's character spends the rest of the movie frantically trying to figure out what Curly meant. What *is* that "just one thing?"

Psychologists, marriage counselors, relationship gurus of all stripes warn us not to expect one person to provide for all our emotional, intellectual and relational needs. We need a variety of relationships, a network of spouses, friends, colleagues from work, basketball buddies, quilting club comrades, children, elders and peers to meet all our relational needs.

But what might be true for our human connections does not hold true for our spiritual needs. Our soul needs only "one thing."

No matter what your denomination. No matter if your spiritual temperament is exuberant, reserved, flamboyant or meditative. Whether your soul craves cathedrals, or soars under the blue dome, it is all the same as long as we have that "one thing."

That "one thing" is Jesus.



(more)

Such a truth is illustrated in the Gospel of Luke, the 28th chapter. Jesus and His disciples entered a certain village (Bethany), and were welcomed by a woman named Martha into her home. She had a sister, Mary, who took the opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His word. Martha was distracted with "much serving," and approached Jesus to say, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

Jesus responded: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Martha is rushing around trying to make everything perfect. At first reading, she is just being a conscientious hostess, but she appears to be concerned about herself – how does her house look? How does her food taste? How are her wines being served?

Martha is so busy "serving" she completely forgets whom she truly serves.

Let us not make that mistake in Life Care and Century Park.

– Beecher Hunter