

Recap

In our fast-paced world, we often find ourselves chasing after various goals, achievements, and possessions. We believe that if we could just attain that one thing - be it a relationship, a career milestone, or a material object - we'll finally be satisfied. But what if true fulfillment comes from something entirely different? What if the key to contentment isn't found in what we can gain, but in Who we already have?

Throughout the Bible, particularly in the Psalms, we encounter a profound concept: "The Lord is my portion." This phrase, though simple, carries immense spiritual weight. But what does it truly mean to have the Lord as our portion?

To understand this concept, we need to journey back through Scripture. In Genesis 15, we find God speaking to Abraham, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." Here, God offers Himself as the ultimate inheritance - something far greater than any earthly blessing.

Later, when the Israelites entered the Promised Land, each tribe received a portion of land as their inheritance - except for the Levites. To them, God said, "You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel" (Numbers 18:20). The Levites received something infinitely more valuable than land; they received God Himself.

This theme echoes throughout the Psalms, beautifully captured in Psalm 73:25-26: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." The psalmist Asaph declares that nothing on earth compares to the joy of having God as his ultimate desire and possession.

In the New Testament, we see this concept illustrated in the story of Mary and Martha. While Martha busied herself with preparations, Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet, listening to His teaching. Jesus commended Mary, saying she had chosen the "good portion" that would not be taken away from her. Mary

understood that beyond serving Jesus, the greatest fulfillment came from Jesus Himself.

So how does this apply to our lives today? For believers in Christ, the statement "the Lord is my portion" is both a reality and an ongoing pursuit. When we place our faith in Jesus, God gives us the greatest gift of all - Himself. We become His people, and He becomes our God. This divine exchange is at the heart of our salvation and relationship with Him.

Yet, even as this is our reality, we must continually seek to make it our heart's desire. Our human nature, tainted by sin, often leads us to seek fulfillment in created things rather than the Creator. We take good gifts from God - relationships, achievements, possessions - and elevate them to ultimate status in our hearts. When we do this, we're essentially making these things our "portion," our primary source of identity and satisfaction.

The challenge, then, is to consistently realign our hearts, making God our supreme desire. When we declare, "The Lord is my portion," we're expressing a spiritual longing that says, "I don't want anything else to occupy my heart as the ultimate object of my affection. I want God alone to be my greatest desire, my true satisfaction."

This truth is beautifully illustrated in the story of Moses and the Israelites. After their rebellion with the golden calf, God offered to give them the Promised Land but said He would not go with them. Moses' response is profound: "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here" (Exodus 33:15). Moses understood that even the richest blessings would be empty without God's presence.

This leads us to a challenging question: If we could have heaven with all its perfections - no disease, no suffering, perfect relationships, unending joy - but Jesus wasn't there, would we still want it? Could we be satisfied with all of heaven's blessings if Christ Himself was absent? The heart that truly makes the Lord its portion would echo Moses: "We won't go unless You're there."

Christianity, at its core, isn't primarily about getting to heaven. It's about getting Christ Himself. He is the "exceeding great reward" promised to Abraham, the Levites' inheritance, the psalmist's greatest desire, and Mary's "good portion." Nothing else will ultimately satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts.

So how do we cultivate this heart attitude? How do we make the Lord our true portion? It begins with recognizing our tendency to be easily distracted and deceived. Like Mary, we need to choose the "good portion" daily. This choice is made possible by God's unfailing love and mercy. As Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

It's in light of God's faithful love that we can continually realign our hearts, pursuing the Lord as our ultimate portion. This pursuit doesn't mean we ignore or despise God's other blessings. Rather, we enjoy them in their proper place, never allowing them to supplant God as our supreme treasure.

As we navigate life's joys and challenges, may we echo the heart cry of the psalmist: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." May we find our ultimate satisfaction not in what we can gain from this world, but in the unshakeable reality that we have God Himself as our portion. In Him, we find a fulfillment that nothing else can match - a contentment that remains steady even when everything else fails.

Let's challenge ourselves daily to proclaim: "All I want is Jesus. Take this world and give me Him." For in making the Lord our portion, we discover the secret to true and lasting joy.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- 1 What does the phrase "the Lord is my portion" mean to you personally? Share a time when you felt particularly close to God or experienced His presence in a powerful way. How did that experience impact you?

- 2 The sermon mentions Abraham, the Levites, and Mary as examples of those who chose God as their portion. Which of these examples resonates with you most, and why?
- 3 How do you think our culture encourages us to seek satisfaction in things other than God? What are some common "portions" people pursue instead of the Lord? What are some signs that might indicate we've allowed something else to become our ultimate "portion" instead of God?
- 4 Reflect on the story of Moses in Exodus 33. Why do you think Moses was willing to give up the Promised Land if God's presence wouldn't go with them?
- 5 The sermon states, "The more we desire Jesus, the more He becomes our portion ... the more free we become and the more satisfied we will be." Have you experienced this in your own life? Share an example.
- 6 How can we practically make God our portion in the midst of daily life and responsibilities?