



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Chosen What is Better and It Will Not Be Taken Away”

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church
7-21-19

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Luke 10:42, “...*Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*” (NIV) This is the Word of God. (Cross-reference – Psalm 27:4; 119:173, Luke 10:39; 11:1, John 6:27; 11:1, 19; 12:3)

Illustration “Taken Away” (Show Joshua and Adam)



My two boys, the oldest, is Adam, and the youngest is Joshua. They played together all the time. Whenever Joshua wants something from his big brother, and without asking, he takes it away. Adam, Joshua’s big brother, never complained and asked for his toys back, and he would just come to his mother and cried quietly, telling his mother that “he took that from me!” My wife would try to settle the situation as fairly as possible. Even though it may not seem important to us, it is important to them. The tears and cry on the older brother faces tell us that it hurts to have something taken away. (Show foreclosure and athlete trip and fall)



It hurts to have something taken away. That is as true for adults as it is for children. People house being foreclosure because they could not pay the mortgage. An athlete loses his/her chances for a medal because someone had a trip in front of them, making them fall along with the rest of the athlete. It hurt when something had taken away from you.

I. That’s why the words of Jesus in our Gospel Lesson today are especially comforting. (Show Luke 10:42)



Luke 10:42 “...*Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*” (NIV)

Even though everything in this life could take away from us, one thing can’t take away. God’s love in Jesus Christ cannot take away. The kingdom of heaven, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting cannot take away. This why Jesus said, “...*Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*” (Luke 10:42) (Show wedding and Sonkoua)



As we go through life, many things had taken away from us. For example, our youth had taken away. Our children grow up too fast, which means we’re getting older too fast. I remember that my father-in-law was in his late 40 when I married Phoua, but now he’s already 84. My oldest daughter already 30. It doesn’t seem like that long ago. All of you probably heard an old saying, “the older you get - the wiser you got.” Another way of saying is that the older you get, the more valuable you are. Some even went

as far as saying, older people had **gold in their teeth, silver in their hair, lead in their feet, and gas in**

their stomachs. That's a humorous way of acknowledging that our youth fullness is take away.

With the loss of youth come to loss of health and the loss of loved ones. (Show casket)



The most traumatic moments in our lives came when those two things – health and loved ones had taken away. In the Hmong family, we see the same as in the Anglo family. We see our children moved away from home, leaving the nest into the big world. We lay to rest our grandparents, then our parents, then ultimately brothers, sisters, and spouse. Life and death take those things away from us.

II. This earthly life takes away a lot of things. When my family lives in Standish, one day, we return home to find that our back door to the kitchen broken to pieces. (Show glass door broken)



The only thing the thief took was a bag of empty bottle and \$30.00 from my daughter purse, which happens to be in the kitchen. When a thing like this happens, it takes away the family sense of security. What if a female were to be rape? She would lose her trust in men because of her peace of mind had been taken away about the men of this world. Brother and sisters in Christ Jesus, the losses we experience in this life can ultimately be traced to sin. We live in a sinful, fallen world that takes away the blessings God gives and ultimately takes

away life itself. One thing love cannot be taken away. (Show our faith cannot be taken away)



One thing cannot be taken away. God's kingdom cannot be taken away. Eternal life, forgiveness, and salvation cannot be taken away. Our faith cannot be taken away.

God's kingdom cannot be taken away. Eternal life, forgiveness, and salvation cannot be taken away. Our faith cannot be taken away. Because we have chosen what is better. We chose that is to believe and trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus made that solemn pledge to Mary as he says, "...Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42) And the same pledge to you and me today. What this means is that our faith cannot be stolen away by an outside force. Satan cannot forcibly take God's kingdom away from us.

Even our sins rob us of God's grace. That's because our sins have been taken away by Christ. It is given to us by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus as Jesus said, "...Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42) (Show Romans 8:31)



"...If God be for us, who can be against us?"
Romans 8:31 (KJV)

The Apostle Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us? ...Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:31, 33-35, 39) God's love will not be taken away from us. (Show John 10:27)



JOHN 10:27
"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

Jesus spoke the same promises during his life. He said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch

them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:27-29) You see the love of our Good Shepherd will not be taken away from us. (Show Koobmoov Joshua Yang – 1 Yrs. Old)

III. When my youngest son Joshua was small, he was afraid of going up the stair by himself.



He needs someone to hold his hand. He would hold up his hand, and I would then take hold of his, and we would go up the stair or come down the stair together. My son would hang on to my hand, and he knew that as long as I'm there, he would not fall. Similarly, our heavenly Father holds on to us, our hand, we will not fall because he said, "no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." In Psalm 37:24, David wrote: "though he stumbles, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand."

Brother and sisters in Christ Jesus, Our eternal security doesn't depend so much on how we hold on to God, but rather his hold on us. (Show Mary and Martha with Jesus)



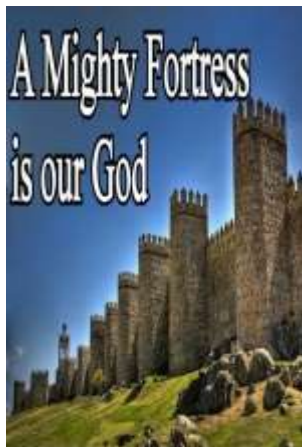
In our reading, Martha may be busy with the choice of chores, but that is her way of serving her Lord. On the other hand, Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to her Lord teaches, she also chose what is better, and it will not be taken away from her. When God's call us into faith, the world will tempt us, and we will stumble, but he pulls us back to repentance and faith. Even when we fall into sin, God does not let go. His grip is on us because our eternal salvation will not be taken away.

(Show Martin Luther and his dying daughter Magdalena)



Dr. Martin Luther understood how almost everything in life could be taken away. His position in the church was taken away because he spoke out against the churches abuses and errors. His citizenship was taken away, and he was declared an outlaw in his nation. Luther daughter Magdalena died when she was 12 years old. His friends said Luther was never the same after her death. Luther, however, knew that one thing would never be taken away. He spoke of his tragedy, and yet expressed his faith and hope in his best-known hymn:

(Show A Mighty Fortress is our God and Hymn)



"A Mighty Fortress is in our God – TLH 262 vs.3-4"

"And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife. Let these all be gone. They yet have nothing won. The kingdom ours remaineth." The kingdom ours remaineth. Your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, Jesus said to you and I, "You have chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away." Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.