

SEEK FIRST

Today I want to talk to you about the power of Spiritual firsts.

Proverbs 29:18 – Without a vision the people perish... (KJV)

- NIV... cast off restraint
- NASB... are unrestrained...
- CSB... without revelation people run wild.
- CEV... law and order disappear.
- GNT... a nation without order...

Matthew 24 :12 – And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (NKJV)

POINT: Without God-purposed priorities (Spiritual Firsts) the people live casually AND chaos ensues

About Firsts

- The FIRST thing renders everything else second
- The FIRST thing in the Hebrew mind was the first thing attended to each morning...
Psalm 63:1 – Because you are my God...early in the morning I will rise up and seek you...
- The FIRST thing... is what gets you up in the morning... wakes you up at night...
- The FIRST thing is keeping the main thing the main thing
- The FIRST thing pushes all non-essential things out of the way.

Q. What are Gods priorities... what are His first things?

In Jesus' life He gives us seven firsts

1. **Matthew 6:33** – Seek **FIRST** His kingdom...
2. **Matthew 7:5** – **FIRST remove** the beam out of your eye then you will see clearly to remove the speck in your brother's eye
3. **Matthew 5:24** – **FIRST go** be reconciled to your brother then then come and offer your gift
4. **Matthew 12:29** – **FIRST bind** the strong man... then you can plunder His house...
5. **Matthew 22:36** – You shall love the Lord your God with all you have...this is the **FIRST and greatest command.**
6. **Matthew 23:26** – **First clean** the inside of the cup... that the outside may be clean also.
7. **Matthew 28:1** – Resurrection: **On the first day** of the week...Mary and the others came to see the tomb

In these first things Jesus sets a foundation for us to build our lives on...Core values for every believer

Today we look at ... **Matthew 6:33 and what it means to seek first**

Why seek first?

Nature of God

God must be first...**He has never been 2nd... (Nature)**

- God is almighty... **Unchangeable**- God has never had a better idea...

He really is King all kings... every single knee will bow... **He will share His glory with no other (Is. 42:8)**

He takes it seriously when we say I give you my heart I give you my soul... All that I am

- That means...God you are our first choice

God must be first... in our worship... allegiance... in our time, energy and recourse and in relationship.

Q. Why must God be first?

- God never receives leftovers....He will only ever be first...

Spiritual reason God must be first... is the first always requires faith

Spiritual first is found in the OT in Exodus 13... Bring me your first lamb

- Because it **takes faith** to give the first lamb
- You don't know if there is going to **be a second lamb, third or tenth**

TCC- One thing in the universe that will not automatically worship Him... Human heart... free will... personal devotion must be voluntary....

- To Seek first takes faith

Greater Context: Seek Me first and then the rest (all these things) will come as a residual from your trust.

- The test is not about things... necessities in this life... **the test is about priority ... is He first?**

Proverbs 3:9-10 – Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the **first fruits** of all your crops; 10 **then your barns will be filled to overflowing**, and your vats will brim over with new wine. NIV

- God calls the first honor to Him

TCC – Seeking first is about Gods nature... He will never be second

Seek first His Kingdm is about

Our Nature

All about **our heart**

Our nature says look out for number one... my own advantage... it is a survival instinct... it is also selfish and self-centered... God want to be our center

Matt 6:33- (JB Phillips) - **Set your heart first on His kingdom and His goodness and all things will come to you as a matter of course...**JB Phillips

- Make His kingdom your greatest care... need ... obsession

To place something first it means first in rank... time... number... value and importance.

- It shows us where our relationship stands.

Fasting... puts our flesh in its place... Spiritual tool to let us know where we stand

Because we are self-absorbed... we are instructed to:

Colossians 3:2 – Set our affections on things above and not on the things of this earth. (KJV)

- This is where our nature truly find its place... Set ourselves in a place of humility
- Set ourselves in a place of seeking His face...
- Set ourselves to turn from our wicked ways

Until we come to this place...

Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (NKJV)

Psalms 119:11 – I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (NIV)

- Notice the motivation- I do not want to sin against you... so I will hide your word in my Heart
- I will place Your word in my life ... Your ways... Your thoughts... Your desires until my thoughts become subordinate to Yours.

Exodus 33:13 – ...teach me your ways so I may know You.

- This is seeking first ... knowing Him

By contrast:

Psalm 103:7 – He made known his ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel: (NIV)

- The people wanted to see the deeds... the stuff
- Moses wanted to know Him...who He is ... His ways

John 17:3 – Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. (NIV)

TCC – it always about the heart

- It's about God's heart and it's about our heart

To seek first is to

Become Passionate

Psalm 42:1 – As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. (NIV)

- There is a place that seeking first is intended to land us in
- Not a destination but a location in the Spirit
- That is passion for His presence

Psalm 84:2 – My soul longs, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. (NIV)

Isaiah 55:1 – “Come, all of you who thirst, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without cost! (NIV)

TCC- This is a place where money and material wealth is of no consequence... because the currency here is

- Come... Seek Me... find Me

Revelation 22:17 – The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. (NIV)

Let us be those who have aligned ourselves with His purposes... His Heart... His priorities... Starting with this First.... Seek Him first