

## Priorities

Today is Christ the King Sunday, also known as the Reign of Christ Sunday. It's the last Sunday of the church year. Instead of January 1, the church calendar begins next week with the first Sunday in Advent. Today, like a grand finale, we worship and proclaim Christ as Lord of all creation.

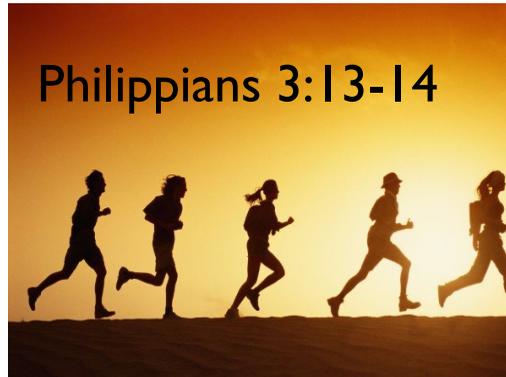
In the scripture lessons for today, we learn of God's priorities. God proclaims through Ezekiel that like a shepherd seeking lost sheep, our Creator's priority is to care for the flock. And the description of this flock: *I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.* Ezekiel 34:16. God's priorities are for those who are down and out.

The scene of the Gospel is a courtroom, where Christ, sits as judge. And, again we learn who are the priorities of his justice: the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the imprisoned. It is those that do not have priority status in this world, that are his focus.

During these weeks, we are invited to consider the priorities of our own lives as we make a commitment to financially support our shared ministry. Together we can proclaim the Good News that no matter how bleak the world may sometimes seem, that Christ is Lord of heaven and earth. Together, through our gifts, we attend to our neighbors in need, in our community and throughout the world.

Our debit card receipts, our credit card statements, our checkbook ledgers are all indicators of the priorities of our lives. Where and on what we spend our money – on life necessities and on so much more – reflect our priorities. They indicate what is important to us.

A very helpful way to prioritize our financial resources is to start with what percentage we are willing to share. Tithing is sharing 10% of our income. By doing so, we make sharing our priority, and we then adjust our other spending, saving, and investments. And this is good for us! Consider this statistic: People who tithe regularly typically have less debt than other demographics – 8 out of 10 have zero credit card debt and 28% of them are completely debt free, including not having a mortgage. (To learn 20 additional tithing statistics, go to [healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics](http://healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics)). If tithing is not yet your practice, try it! Step Forward in Faith!



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