

FOUNDATIONS: "FIRST THINGS FIRST" LESSON 1: "GOD FIRST"

Intro. In this series we're going to talk about three different priorities we need to give attention to.

- ***These are areas of extreme importance***
- **"FIRST THINGS FIRST"**

1. Tonight we're going to begin with putting God first
 - a. I've abbreviated the following portion of scripture to save time and to emphasize a point

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

25 "Therefore I tell you, *do not worry* about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...

27 Who of you *by worrying* can add a single hour to his life?

28 "And *why do you worry* about clothes?

31 So *do not worry*, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 Therefore *do not worry* about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

2. Not worrying is a repeated thought in Matthew 6 but I don't believe it's Jesus' main point
 - a. He said all ***that*** about worrying in the other verses to say ***this in verse 33***

Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV)

33 *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

34 Therefore *do not worry* ...

3. Jesus' real point in these verses is if we'll put God first we won't have to worry as much

Someone said, "Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday."

Jesus said, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

- *That's what this lesson is really about*
- *Our priorities: putting God First*

I. GOD WANTS US TO PUT HIM FIRST FOR _____ _____ NOT HIS

A. GOD IS _____ IN HIMSELF

Exodus 3:14 (NKJV) And God said to Moses, "*I AM WHO I AM.*" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '*I AM* has sent me to you.'"

1. When God asks us to put Him first in our lives it's not because He's _____

- *It's totally for our benefit*

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

2. The first of the 10 commandments was to put _____

Exodus 20:2-3 (NKJV)

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

- a. God didn't command this because He felt threatened by "*other gods*"
- b. The reason the first of the 10 commandments was to have no other gods was because those "*other gods*" couldn't do anything for them

Psalms 115:4-10 (NKJV)

- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.
5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;
6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;
7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.
8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.
9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

B. GOD WANTS US TO SEEK HIM FIRST BECAUSE HE WANTS TO _____

- *Because when we do "all these things will be given"*

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

1. Everything in our lives will _____ if we seek Him first
 - a. Our relationships- our marriages, our parenting ability, our friendships, we'll even like ourselves better!
 - b. Our emotions will be a lot more stable
 - c. We'll have more financial security
 - d. *We won't worry as much*

C. WE CAN HAVE _____ THAT PUTTING GOD FIRST IS ALWAYS THE BEST THING FOR US

1. The root of all disobedience is a _____
 - a. *"If I put God first I'm going to miss out."*

ex. *This happened in the Garden. The serpent caused Adam and Eve to question God's motives.*

Genesis 3:4-6 (NKJV)

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

2. It's a lot easier for us to put God first in our lives when we

a. His motive in asking to be first is for our benefit

Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, *do not worry...* **27** Who of you *by worrying...* **28** "And *why do you worry...* **31** *So do not worry...* **33** *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* **34** *Therefore do not worry ...*

b. God wants to be first in our lives to save us from the pain of constant worry that comes from doing it our way

- *We're going to look at how we can know if we are putting God first in our lives*

**II. WE ARE PUTTING GOD FIRST WHEN WE TRUST _____
_____ OVER OUR OWN**

A. GOD IS VERY _____

Isaiah 55:8-11 (NKJV)

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

1. _____ contains His thoughts and opinions

ex. *God has opinions about morality, social issues, how we spend our time and resources, what we think about...all kinds of things*

a. We show God how much we trust Him when we value His opinion

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

b. We sometimes run into trouble when His opinion is different from ours

B. GOD'S WORD _____ WHEN WE TRUST IT ABOVE OUR OWN THOUGHTS OR OPINIONS

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but ***it shall accomplish*** what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

- *God's word accomplishes things*

ex. *It heals, it delivers, it encourages, it comforts, it provides, etc.*

1. We have to make a firm commitment to what _____
_____ over what _____

a. Sometimes we put a lot more value on our own feelings than we ought to

b. If we will let it in; God's word will trump a bad feeling

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

ques. What does it mean to *acknowledge Him in all our ways*?

ans. *It means that in whatever question, doubt, difficulty, or challenge we face in life, we bring it under the opinion of God's word.*

- *In other words, we ask ourselves, "What does God's word have to say about this?"*
- *Somewhere in His word He has direction about whatever it is we're concerned about; our family, our needs, our health, our future; everything.*
- *We have to have some absolute beliefs in our life*
- *And we can trust His word over our own opinions, circumstances, or feelings, absolutely!*

Matthew 6:25-34

25 "Therefore I tell you, *do not worry...* 27 Who of you by worrying... 28 "And *why do you worry...* 31 So *do not worry...*

33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given...*

34 Therefore *do not worry ...*

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: *Jesus, forgive me for the times I've put other things ahead of You. I determine to give You first priority in my life. I will value Your word over my own opinions or feelings. Because You are first in my life, I will not worry. I believe You will take care of me and my needs, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #1

**I. GOD WANTS US TO PUT HIM FIRST FOR ____ (OUR
SAKE) NOT HIS**

A. GOD IS _____ (SECURE) IN HIMSELF

1. When God asks us to put Him first in our lives it's not because He's _____ (insecure)
2. The first of the 10 commandments was to put _____ (God first)

B. GOD WANTS US TO SEEK HIM FIRST BECAUSE HE WANTS TO _____ (HELP US!)

1. Everything in our lives will _____ (be better) if we seek Him first

C. WE CAN HAVE _____ (DOUBTS) THAT PUTTING GOD FIRST IS ALWAYS THE BEST THING FOR US

1. The root of all disobedience is a _____ (lack of trust)
2. It's a lot easier for us to put God first in our lives when we _____ (trust His motive)

II. WE ARE *PUTTING GOD FIRST* WHEN WE TRUST ___ (HIS OPINION) OVER OUR OWN

A. GOD IS VERY _____ (OPINIONATED)

1. _____ (God's word) contains His thoughts and opinions

B. GOD'S WORD _____ (WILL BENEFIT US) WHEN WE TRUST IT ABOVE OUR OWN THOUGHTS OR OPINIONS

1. We have to make a firm commitment to what _____ (God says) over what _____ (we think or feel)