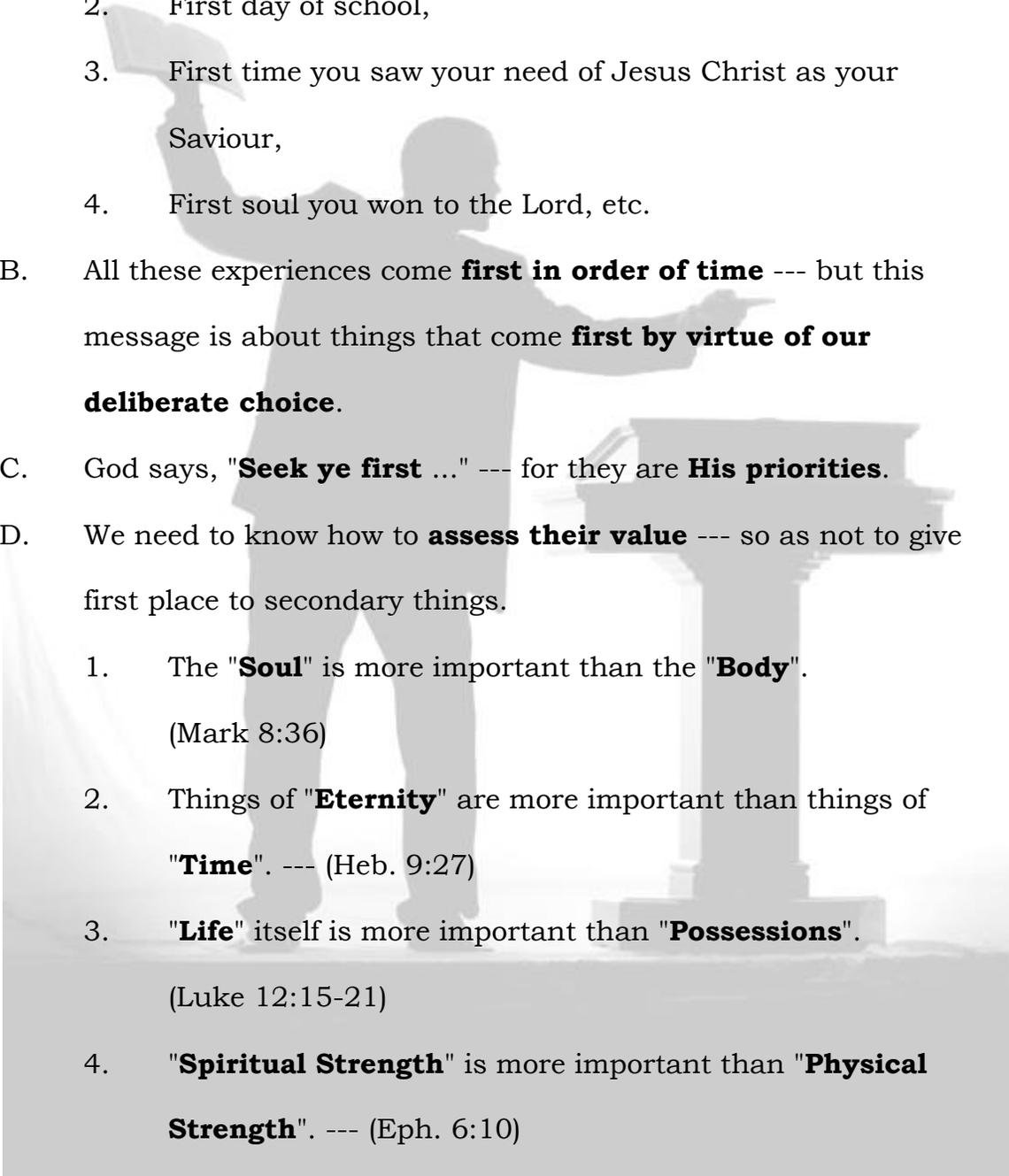


## God's Priorities For Our Life

**Text:**        Matthew 6:25-34

### **Introduction:**

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- A. There is a certain **excitement** about "**first things**":
1. Baby --- first words --- first steps,
  2. First day of school,
  3. First time you saw your need of Jesus Christ as your Saviour,
  4. First soul you won to the Lord, etc.
- B. All these experiences come **first in order of time** --- but this message is about things that come **first by virtue of our deliberate choice**.
- C. God says, "**Seek ye first ...**" --- for they are **His priorities**.
- D. We need to know how to **assess their value** --- so as not to give first place to secondary things.
1. The "**Soul**" is more important than the "**Body**".  
(Mark 8:36)
  2. Things of "**Eternity**" are more important than things of "**Time**". --- (Heb. 9:27)
  3. "**Life**" itself is more important than "**Possessions**".  
(Luke 12:15-21)
  4. "**Spiritual Strength**" is more important than "**Physical Strength**". --- (Eph. 6:10)

E. Much of our trouble arises because **we have reversed the order** --  
- majoring on the minor --- minoring on the major.

F. The Bible tells us **What God Wants** us to put first:

1. The first and greatest commandment.

(Matt. 22:36-38 --- **Love God**)

2. Why we love God.

(1 John 4:19 --- **He First Loved Us**)

3. The prerequisite to discipleship.

(Luke 14:28, 31 --- **Counting The Cost**)

4. Where giving must begin.

(2 Cor. 8:5 --- **Giving of Self**)

5. Where piety (consistent living) must begin.

(1 Tim. 5:4 --- **At Home**)

6. Where soul-winning must begin.

(John 1:41 --- **At Home**)

7. Where judgment must begin.

(1 Peter 4:17 --- **At The House of God**)

(The Gospel of Matthew records our Lord's **Five-Fold Law of Priorities**.)

I. **In Matt. 5:23-24 --- First Your Brother, Then Your Gift.**

A. Notice how clear **God's Order** is:

**Matthew 5:23-24**, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave

there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled to thy brother**, and then come and offer thy gift."

- B. The devil loves to sow seeds of discord among Christians ---  
However, the Lord gives us a way of victory --- not an easy way ---  
But, it is the way of God's blessings.
- C. To worship God --- bring gifts to Him --- enter into His service ---  
are all **in vain if we fail to obey** God's requirements in Matt. 5:23-24.
- D. God's work is often **paralysed** --- His servants are **powerless** ---  
because of an **unwillingness** to seek the reconciliation that God commands.
- E. No Christian can be **Right With God** and **Not Right With His Fellow brother in Christ**.  
**I John 4:20-21**, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, **he is a liar**: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, **how can he love God** whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, **That he who loveth God love his brother also**."  
**I John 3:14**, "**We know** that we have passed from death unto life, because **we love the brethren**. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death."
- F. This includes showing **Spirituality At Home**.

**I Timothy 5:4**, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn **first** to **shew piety at home**, and to requite (*reward, recompense*) their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

**II. In Matt. 6:33 --- First The Spiritual, Then The Temporal.**

A. This is a **Wonderful Promise**.

**Matthew 6:31-33**, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For **after all these things do the Gentiles seek:**) for **your heavenly Father knoweth** that ye have need of all these things. But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

B. Give God **First Place In Your Life!**

**I Kings 17:12-13**, "And she said, [As] the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I [am] gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go [and] do as thou hast said: but **make me thereof a little cake first**, and bring [it] unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son."

C. **Paul** taught the same thing.

**Philippians 4:15-19**, "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no

church **communicated with me** as **concerning giving** and **receiving**, but **ye only**. For even in Thessalonica **ye sent once and again unto my necessity**. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may **abound to your account**. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things [which were sent] from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my **God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory** by Christ Jesus."

When **God Has First Place** --- **Miracles** take place --- **Needs** are supplied ...

- D. If we put **God's kingdom first** and seek to do His will first --- we need have **no anxiety about anything**.
1. It is possible to be in the kingdom of God --- yet not really seeking His righteousness.
  2. It is possible to be justified and to disregard God's call to sanctification.

**I Thessalonians 4:3**, "For this is the **will of God**, [even] **your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication:"

- E. Thus, this promise of **Matt. 6:33** is made to the Christian who is willing to have **God's Priorities For His Life**.

**Psalms 34:9-10**, "O **fear** the LORD, ye his saints: for [there is] **no want to them that fear him**. The young lions do lack, and suffer

hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall **not want any good [thing].**"

**Philippians 4:19**, "But my God shall supply **all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

**III. In Matt. 7:3-5 --- First Judge Yourself, Then Your Brother.**

A. **Matthew 7:3-5**, "And why beholdest thou the **mote that is in thy brother's eye**, but considerest not the **beam that is in thine own eye**? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam [is] in thine own eye? **Thou hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **then shalt thou see clearly** to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

B. This shows:

1. The danger of self-love,
2. An attitude of unkindness,
3. The need of getting right yourself ...

C. How blind we often are to **our own faults** --- how **quickly** we **observe the faults and failings of others!**

D. Nearly every time we criticize someone else --- we unconsciously criticize them for something **of which we ourselves are guilty.**

**Romans 2:1**, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou

condemnest thyself; for **thou that judgest doest the same things.**"

- E. If a brother is overtaken in a fault --- how do we handle it?  
**Galatians 6:1**, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore such an one** in the **spirit of meekness**; considering **thyself**, lest thou also be tempted."

**IV. In Matt. 8:21-22 --- First What Christ Wants, Then What I Want.**

- A. **Matthew 8:21**, "And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, **suffer me first** to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."

- B. A "**Me-First**" disciple is of **little value** to the Lord.

- C. "**Me-First**" - the **only answer** to the following questions:

1. Why do you allow that **doubtful habit**?
2. Why do you always put **yourself first**?
3. Why do you pursue that **harmful friendship**?
4. Why do you allow that **crooked method** in business?
5. Why do you still attend **worldly places**?
6. Why do you **not try** to win souls?
7. Why do you **not obey** the voice of the Lord?

**V. In Matt. 23:25-26 --- First The Inside, Then The Outside.**

- A. **Matthew 23:25-26**, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make **clean the outside** of the cup and of the

- platter, **but within** they are full of **extortion** and **excess**. [Thou] blind Pharisee, **cleanse first that [which is] within** the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."
- B. The Christian life is **Not** just an **Outwardly Reformed Life** --- primarily it **Is** an **Inwardly Cleansed Life**.
1. **Reformation** only takes care of the outside.
  2. **Regeneration** takes care of the inside and outside.
- C. **I Samuel 16:7**, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, ..... **man looketh on the outward** appearance, but **the LORD looketh on the heart**."
- D. God does not want **outward profession** --- He wants **inward possession**.
- I John 5:11-12**, "And **this is the record**, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **He that hath the Son hath life**; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

**Conclusions:**

- This morning we are looked at God's Priorities For Our Life
  - **First Your Brother, Then Your Gift**
  - **First The Spiritual, Then The Temporal**
  - **First Judge Yourself, Then Your Brother**
  - **First What Christ Wants, Then What I Want.**
  - **First The Inside, Then The Outside.**

- The question you need to ask yourself – Are God’s Priorities Your Priorities?
- If you are here today and are not saved and born again, I am here to tell you that God’s will for your life ( His number one priority for your life) is for you to be saved.
  - It is God’s will that none should perish but all should come to repentance.
  - Won’t you be saved today?

