

KINGDOM PRIORITIZATION: MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

Sunday Sermon – 4/27/2025

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Matthew 6:33 AMP - 33 But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.

Matthew 6:33 ERV - 33 What you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what he wants you to do. Then he will give you all these other things you need.

Matthew 6:33 NLT - 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:33 – Is one of the most important scriptures regarding proper prioritization in life.

Priorities can be defined as the things that matter most and deserving of our time, attention, and energy.

Proper prioritization of life is the key to achieving a life that is pleasing to God and fulfilling to us. Philippians 2:13 NLT - 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

II Timothy 4:7 NIV - 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We live in a world that is continually making a demand for our time, attention, and energy. This is why it is of the utmost importance that we learn to properly prioritize our lives so that we can get the optimum results for God. We must seek the things of God as a priority over the things of the world.

If we are taking care of God's business as a priority—seeking His salvation, living in obedience to Him, being a witness for Him, and sharing the good news of the kingdom with others—then He will take care of our business as He promised. He will make sure that the priorities of this earthly life are met.

We must realize that provision always follows purpose that is in alignment with the will of God.

But how do we know if we're truly seeking God's kingdom first?

The Word of God shares insight regarding how to recognize if our life is in proper prioritization.

1. Where's My Head At? Is my thinking in line with the Kingdom?

Colossians 3:1-2 AMP - Therefore if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value].



Is the focus of my day more centered on how to obtain riches, how to satisfy my worldly desires and the lust of my flesh, how to be what the world deems as a success in life according to its standards, or is my focus on how to please God by being a representative of righteousness in the Kingdom of God? Am I sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit on a moment-by-moment basis? Am I Kingdom-focused or world-focused?

You have to reset your mindset daily in order to properly align yourself to what is priority. Mental Priority Checklist.

Philippians 4:8 AMP - 8 Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God's word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart].

2. Am I Worry Free, or Worrying?

Matthew 6:25,31-32 NIV - 25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Worry - giving way to anxiety or unease; allowing one's mind to dwell on difficulty or troubles: to think about problems or fears, to feel or show fear and concern because you think that something bad has happened or could happen. Worry causes you to lose perspective on what really matters and lose reality on the fact that you are cared for. Worry is like being on a hamster wheel - exhausting time and exerting energy to go nowhere.

I Peter 5:7 NLT - 7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Matthew 6:34 NLT - 34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Just because worries come doesn't mean you have to worry. If you allow the Holy Spirit to guide you through today, He will help to position you for your tomorrow.

3. Am I Truly Trusting God Daily?

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Our own understanding often doesn't see the big picture.

Is my faith unequivocally and indisputably in Him? Am I fully confident that He wants the best for me?

Matthew 6:32 NLT - 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Because the Father knows all our needs, it doesn't mean that a situation will not arise that gets your attention, but it means that the situation that arose doesn't have to dominate your thoughts because you know God has



provided. Your Father knows what you need, when you need it, and how to get it to you. In fact, He has met the need before the need arises.

I Kings 17:1-9 NKJV - And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." 2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. (God provided a spiritual Door Dash for Elijah) 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." (Just because a source dries up, we have to trust God that He has already prepared and provided a resource to sustain us.) What kind of Father do you think you have?

Matthew 6:26 NLT - 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

He is not absintee, He is not negligent, He is not abusive - He is a loving, caring, always present, providing Father.

Kingdom Priorities

1. Prayer

Prayer was a priority in the life of Jesus. Early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus would rise and spend time alone with God in prayer. (Mark 1:35 NLT - 35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.)

In busy periods of ministry, Jesus would withdraw to solitary places and pray

(Luke 5:15-16 NLT - 15 But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.) (The busier we become in ministry, the more important it is to pray. Why? It allows us to connect with God, ask for His help, and receive His guidance.)

At times, He even spent whole nights in prayer. (Luke 6:12 NLT - 12 One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.)

If prayer was a priority in Jesus' life to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God and our lives are to be conformed to be like His, then prayer will need to be a priority in our lives.

Jesus, in teaching His disciples declared prayer as a major factor in advancing the Kingdom of God in this world. Matt. 6:10 KJV - "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" and in Matt.



9:38 Jesus bids us to "ask the Lord of the harvest ... to send out workers into his harvest field".

The powerful working of the Holy Spirit is related to a fervent prayer life. In fact, the Holy Spirit was introduced to 120 disciples of Jesus Christ at a prayer meeting.

Acts 1:4-5,12-14, NLT - 4 And being assembled together with them, <u>He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem</u>, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but <u>you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit</u> not many days from now." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 <u>These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication</u>, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:1-4 NKJV When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:24, 31 NKJV - 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

2. Stewardship

Stewardship is managing and utilizing all resources God provides us for His glory and the betterment of His Kingdom. Stewardship is an acknowledgment of God's ownership and our oversight of what God owns.

Giving is a demonstration of our stewardship and covers a vast spectrum of our life. When we determine that we are to give, we should recognize it encompasses our time, our talent, our treasure, and our temple (body). I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV - 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Giving is a priority to God. Giving is a demonstration of His love.

John 3:16 NLT - 16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 NKJV - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Love doesn't base its demonstration to someone based on the state they're in.



God will always make sure you have something to give to substantiate your stewardship.

II Corinthians 9:10 NKJV - 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

We shouldn't live life looking for a handout but believing God for a hand up so we can provide a handout. (Handout mentality - A handout mentality refers to focusing on receiving entitlements and handouts, rather than taking responsibility for our own actions and outcomes. In contrast, a hand-up mentality involves actively seeking ways to help yourself and others achieve.)

3. Discipleship

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT - 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We have been commissioned to make disciples to further develop and establish the Kingdom of God here on the Earth.

The making of disciples is our Lord's means for answering the prayer, Matthew 6:9-10 - "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

John 6:12 NKJV - 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."

Somebody has to be available to gather the fragments. Disciples are needed. Quit being a church goer and be a Kingdom worker.

What Are The Benefits Of Proper Prioritization?

1. Proper Prioritization Enhances Productivity.

You naturally get more done in less time when you focus on the most important tasks. Prayer helps us obtain that focus by putting things in proper alignment and perspective. John 15:5 MSG - "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

Beware of multitasking - scattering your energy across multiple activities.

2. Proper Prioritization Reduces Stress and Being Overwhelmed.

Prioritization produces peace of mind because of focusing on the main thing and not feeling overwhelmed trying to juggle multiple things at once.

Philippians 4:6-7 AMP - 6 Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific]



requests known to God. 7 And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

Isaiah 26:3 AMP - 3 "You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].

Identifying and tackling the most crucial tasks first can declutter your mind, reduce your amount of stress, and enable you to regain control.

3. Proper Prioritization Provides Clear Direction

The ability to prioritize brings a clear understanding of what matters, allowing you to choose the best course of action. As a result, your time and resources are well spent.

Psalm 32:8 AMP - 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you.

Isaiah 30:21 NLT - 21 Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.