

**“Putting God First”
Matthew 6:24 - 33**

Big Idea – God wants His children to put Him first in their lives.

What’s most important to you? According to a survey on eBay, 66% of the men responding said they would skip the birth of their firstborn child in order to watch the Super Bowl. - 2001 Survey on eBay.

God gave His First-born to us

Matt. 1: 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Col. 1: 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Rev. 1: 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

God asks us to put Him first, before all the other things of life we need.

Matt. 6: 24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these

30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

God spells out in Scripture the first things that He requests:

First **day** of the week

1 Cor. 16: 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

John 20: 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

First **part** of each day

Dan. 6: 10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Psa. 5: 3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

Psa. 55: 17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

Psa. 88: 13 But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psa. 119: 147 I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.

First part of our **provisions**/money

Prov. 3: 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

Ezek. 46:13 "You shall daily make a burnt offering to the LORD of a lamb of the first year without blemish; you shall prepare it every morning.

Study after study has shown that money is not the key to happiness. A recent survey was made of 52,000 men and women, most of whom were in the upper economic brackets. Out of sixteen possible sources of happiness for married women, money ranked thirteenth. With married men, money ranked tenth. It was ninth with single women; seventh with single men. Your marriage is a better investment than your bank account. So are your children, your friends, and your health. There is one investment, however, that pays bigger dividends than all the rest put together. That is to be rich in the things of God.

Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it."

Putting God first tells God we fear Him more than the government or bill collectors.

Matt. 22: 17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"
18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"

19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,
20 and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"
21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Lk. 20: 22 "Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"
23 But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Why do you test Me?
24 "Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's."
25 And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Do any of you work for an employer and you've told them not to take out any money for your withholding taxes, because you want to make sure you can pay all your other bills before your tax money is taken out?

There are no atheists among people called in for an IRS tax audit.

Putting God first tells Others we honor God more than the government or bill collectors.

Matt. 6: 19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal.
20 Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth--eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.
21 Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."

God promises to bless those who put Him first and remove the curse of disobedience.

Prov. 3: 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Mal. 3: 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.
10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;

When we give to others, God gives us something in return: freedom from the tyranny of our problems.

The average charitable giving in the United States is 1.7 percent of adjusted gross income. The average among Christians is 2.5 %

- Ron Blue, quoted in Discipleship Journal.

Leave Behind

Out of the life, I shall never take
Things of silver and gold I make
All that I cherish and hoard away
When I leave these things on earth must stay.

Though I failed for a painting rare
To hang on my wall, I must leave it there
Though I call it mine and boast its worth
I must give it up when I quit this earth
All that I gather and all that I keep
I must leave behind when I fall asleep

And I wonder often, what will I own
In that other life when I pass along.
What shall He find and what shall He see
In the soul that answers the call for me?

Will the Great Judge find when my task is through
That my soul has gathered some riches, too?
Or at the last will it be mine to find
That all I had worked for was left behind.