

SEEK “FIRST”

(Beginning The New Year God's Way)



THE SUPREMACY OF GOD

- ◆ Every Day
- ◆ Every Week
- ◆ Every Increase
- ◆ Every Choice
- ◆ Every Response

“Seek first the Kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33)

Bill Kirk

“THE SUPREMACY OF GOD IN ALL THINGS”

Text: Matthew 6:33,34
Subject: Radical Commitment To A Deserving Savior

Introduction

1. I heard a story about a chicken and a pig who were walking down the road.
2. They walked by a farmers house and discovered that the farmer was starving.
3. “What do we do”? The pig asked the chicken.
4. “Don’t worry” said the chicken, “The farmer will be okay, you and I will feed him”.
5. “What do you mean” said the pig.
6. “Oh, its simple”, said the chicken, “I’ll provide the eggs, and you provide the bacon”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The chicken required easy convenience!
- ◆ The pig required real commitment!

Question: What’s the message of the hour?

Answer: Radical commitment to a deserving Savior!

- ◆ In my devotions on New Years Day, I made an altar in my study at home (with my Bible in hand).
- ◆ I felt the Holy Spirit lead me to Matthew 6:33, a verse known to every long term believer:

“Seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”.

Question: What’s our part?

Answer: “Seek **First**”

Question: What’s God’s part?

Answer: “All the food, clothing and shelter you will ever need, will be yours all of your life”.

(So Much So)

- ◆ That if you give God **first** place in everything,
- ◆ (In verse 34), you will be free from the worries of all your tomorrows.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ “First Place” Christians not only have all they physically need, but they are able to enjoy it because of the inward peace of knowing Jesus! (and transferring responsibility over to God through obedience)

Question: Does Jesus want to be Lord and first place in your life?

- ◆ Luke 6:46, “Why call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
- ◆ Romans 14:9, “For to this end Christ both died and rose again (why?) that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living” (that’s you).
- ◆ Colossian 1:18, “Jesus is the head of the church (that’s you), that in **all things** He might have the **preeminence**”.

Question: How many things does Jesus want to be “First Place” in? “**All Things**”

Question: How do we reveal or show or manifest our love for God?

Answer: (II John 9), “And this is love, that you walk after the commandments of the Lord”.

Question: Is there great blessing for “**First Place**” Christians?

- ◆ Isaiah 1:19, “If you are willing **and obedient**, you will eat the good of the land”.
- ◆ Luke 11:28, “Blessed are they that hear the Word of God **and keep it**”.
- ◆ John 14:21, “Those who **keep My Word**, shall be loved of My Father and I will manifest Myself to them”.

Question: Pastor, how can I give God supremacy in my life?

Question: Pastor, how can I live committed to a deserving Savior?

Question: Pastor, how can this be a year where my life is blessed by God?

Question: Pastor, how can I “Seek First” God’s will for my life?

(In Plain Vanilla)

◆ What’s my part in cooperating with God to begin this new year?

I. Give God The First Part Of Every Day

Question: What does this mean?

Answer: It means, before you serve like Martha, be careful to wait like Mary.

(Read Luke 10:38-42)

1. Martha was cumbered about much serving.
2. The Greek word for “Cumbered” means “Distracted”.
3. Martha became distracted from her first priority in life.

Question: What happens when we get distracted from the feet of Jesus?

Answer: (Verse 41), “Thou art careful and troubled”.

◆ The word “Careful” means “Anxious”. (It means to be inwardly divided in two)

◆ The word “Troubled” means “To be agitated, disturbed, ruffled and stirred up”.
(It means to be in turmoil on the inside)

Question: What does Jesus tell us?

Answer: “One thing is needful” (Verse 42).

(In Other Words)

◆ First place Christians (are busy yes),

◆ But first place Christians are careful – not to allow their work to interfere with their worship.

(In Other Words)

◆ It’s the principle of fresh bread in the morning.

◆ It’s the secret to a good day.

(Mark 1:35)

“And in the morning, Jesus went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed”.

Question: Why pray?

Answer: (The fragrance of the Lord) We carry the fragrance of the Lord, throughout our day, when we give Him **first place** each day.

II. Give God The First Day Of Every Week

Question: Why do we worship on Sunday?

Answer: #1. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week.
#2. Local churches in Acts worshipped on the first day of the week.
#3. Tithes and offerings were given on the first day of the week.

(Read Isaiah 58:13,14)

Question: How do we give God the first day of the week? (Isaiah 58:13,14)

#1. By not doing our “Own ways” and making it a day of rest. (v. 13)

#2. By not wasting our time on frivolous or trivial conversations “Speaking our own words”.
(v. 13)

#3. By not “Finding our own pleasures” (or seeking to be entertained and amused). (v. 13)

#4. By “Delighting in the Lord” (v. 14) or, making Sunday a day of spiritual refreshment.

Question: Why commit myself to the local church, pastor?

Answer: Because the church is God's gift to you for 3 purposes:

- #1. The local church is the place to corporately gather and worship God. (I Corinthians 12:13)
- #2. The local church is the place to grow and be equipped for works of service. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- #3. The local church is the place to reach out to the unsaved (called evangelism). (Matthew 28:19,20)

Question: Pastor, why do I have to get planted in a local church?

Answer: (Psalm 92:13), "Those that be planted in the local church (the house of the Lord) shall flourish in the courts of our God".

- ◆ Transplants – jump from church, to church, to church and never submit to authority and accountability.
- ◆ Tumbleweeds – follow the latest fad, which ever way the wind is blowing.
- ◆ Planted – believers put down roots, build relationships, begin to grow and serve.

(How Can You Make Sunday The Best Day Of The Week?)

- #1. Get to bed early enough on Saturday to be fresh and alert on Sunday.
- #2. Get to church early enough to park the car, hang up your coat, use the restroom and find a seat. (Take the hurried spirit out of Sunday).
- #3. Sing wholeheartedly and open your heart to God in worship.
- #4. Bring your Bible and expect God to speak to you through His Word (in Sunday School and the Worship service).
- #5. Pray for everyone who serves you, that God will use them to do His will.
- #6. Give an offering worthy of God (not to get back, but because you just love Jesus.)
- #7. Go out of your way to greet someone, meet someone, affirm someone and encourage someone along the way.

III. Give God The First Tenth Of Every Increase

(Read Malachi 3:8-11)

Question: What is the tithe?

Answer: The word tithe means "Tenth"

Question: Why tithe?

Answer: Its not to pay bills.

- ◆ Tithing was instituted by God 400 years before the Law of Moses.

(Tithing Was God's Way To Do 2 Things)

- #1. Establish the fear of the Lord in our hearts, (and)
- #2. To provide spiritual food in the place where you worship.

Question: What's the difference between tithes and offering?

Answer: The tithe is a debt I pay, my offering is a gift (above my tithe)

Question: Is it that important to God (and you?)

Answer: Read Proverbs 3:9, 10.

Question: How will God respond to those who pay tithes and give offerings?

Answer: (Read Malachi 3:10,11)

- #1. God will honor you and open the windows of heaven in ways unknown to you right now (provision), and
- #2. God will rebuke the devourer (or spare you from having your resources devoured) all because you took the step of faith to believe His Word. (Protection)
- #3. God will stretch the ninth to go further than the tenth because your obedience and faith in His Word.

Question: What does Acts 20:35 mean "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

Answer: It's more blessed because you become more like God when you give "For God so loved the world He gave". (John 3:16)

IV. Give God The First Priority Of Every Decision

Question: What does this mean?

Answer: It means whenever you come to the fork in the road, (and have to make a choice) you choose to do what the Lord wants you to do!

(It Means:)

- ◆ You live with one thought in mind wherever you go, whoever you are with, whatever you do.
- ◆ It means whenever you are presented with a choice, you ask yourself one question, "**What would Jesus do?**"

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. When you're out on a date, | 6. When you're on the job, |
| 2. When you're married and need to forgive, | 7. When you're handed a bud-light, |
| 3. When you're tempted by sins power, | 8. When you're trying to fit in, |
| 4. When you're watching T.V., | 9. When you're betrayed by a friend, |
| 5. When you're doing your taxes, | 10. When you're offered two choices: |

- ◆ Please your flesh and other people, (or)
- ◆ Please the Lord above all else.

(Read Deuteronomy 30:19,20)

Question: What's it mean?

Answer: Choose life that you may live. Choose to love the Lord your God and cling to Him, He is your life.

(Read Psalm 16:8)

"I have set the Lord always before me, because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved"

V. Give God The First Response Of Every Conviction

(Read II Corinthians 7:8-11)

Question: What is godly sorrow?

Answer: It is the pain I feel, from the conviction of the Holy Spirit, because of something in my life that does not please the Lord. (Repeat)

Question: What is repentance (that follows godly sorrow)?

Answer: Repentance means to turn around and forsake everything in my life that brings sorrow to the Lord.

- ◆ Repentance is my response to do something about my godly sorrow.
- ◆ Repentance is my way out because of God's convicting power.
- ◆ Repentance is a gift from God, when I come to the place of saying, "God, I've had it with sin and carnal living".

"God, I'm Sorry For Offending Your Holiness And Repent In Dust And Ashes"

(Want this To Be Your Best Year Ever?)

- #1. Give God the first part of every day.
- #2. Give God the first day of every week.
- #3. Give God the first tenth (and offering) of every increase and portion you receive.
- #4. Give God the first priority of every decision.
- #5. Give God the first response every time God convicts you of anything that needs to change.

(Remember)

- ◆ My spiritual influence upon others is determined by my willful obedience to God!

Altar Call
Bill Kirk, Pastor
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