

WHO IS FIRST?

Mt.6:33

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By asking the question, “Who Is First?”, we mean who is first in your heart, in your thought, in your plans, in your life, in your love, in your hope?
2. This passage and others teach that God must be first if we are to be acceptable to God, to have fellowship with him, and to have any hope of heaven. Cf. Mt.6:33; Lk.10:25-28; Mt.10:37-39; 16:24-27.
3. With this in mind, in this lesson, we shall emphasize the question: Who Is First?

II. DISCUSSION

A. **MT.6:33 TEACHES THAT “THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS” MUST BE THE FIRST OBJECT OF HUMAN PURSUIT.**

1. Man is made for God. And his chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Cf. 1Cor.10:31; 1Pet.1:3-5; 1Th.4:13-18; 1Pet.5:10; Psa.23:6.
2. What Mt.6:33 requires of us is our one great end and the purpose of our being, and that we must voluntarily make our one, first, chief end.
3. There may be intermediate ends and objects which rightly call for our attention, but there is this one which must never be forgotten.
4. We were made for God; to love him, to serve him, to praise him, to live in fellowship with him, to do and to bear his holy will.
 - a. Genesis to Revelation teach this.
 - b. Mt.6:33 specifically state it.
5. The true order of human pursuits should be – first God; second, others; third, self. Or, to put it in another way – first righteousness; second, duty; third, pleasure. See Tit.2:11-14.
6. God’s kingdom is the reign of his will. And that concerns conduct. God’s will covers and concerns all our doings and relations.
7. God’s righteousness is himself. And that is character; concerns character; stands as model for the molding of character.
8. Then man’s two supreme ends – which are in reality one – which he must always and everywhere put in the first places, are: (1) God’s character – to

- be like Him; (2) God's will – to serve Him. In this we have the sum total of God's requirements for man!
9. It is God's promise, and it will be a joyful experience to any faithful servant of God to find how all of life goes into place, and everything gets provided for, when he seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
 10. Read Mt.6:33 again and again and again. Think about it. Meditate on it.

B. NOW I ASK YOU, WHO IS FIRST IN YOUR HEART, YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR PLANS, YOUR LIFE, YOUR LOVE AND YOUR HOPE: --

1. If you prefer, believe and follow the teaching of your family or the traditions of some human religious organization on what to do to be saved, rather than what the Lord says in his written word? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
 - a. Note what the Lord says: Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9.
 - b. Compare what men say, including family.
 - c. Who is first with you? Whom do you believe? Follow?
2. If you go to work while suffering with a headache, backache, or other non-serious, non-life-threatening illness, but can't or do not attend worship or Bible study service because of the same problem? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
3. If you chose to work an extra shift or work over-time when it is not necessary or required rather than attend worship or Bible study service with the saints? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
4. If you take a job that regularly requires you to miss both services on the Lord's day about 75% to 90% of the time? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
5. If you continually financially provide for self and family and fail to give or lay by in store on the 1st day of the week as prospered as God requires? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
6. If you are constantly or always in debt, or continually or constantly so far in debt in providing for self, that you can not lay by in store on the 1st day of the week as God requires? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
7. If you do not, with your time, effort, knowledge, presence, encouragement and financial means support the work of the local church of which you are a member? Who is first? Mt.6:33.

8. If you are constantly out of town visiting or engaged in recreational events and activities resulting in your absence from worship and Bible study services with the saints? Who is first? Mt.6:33.
9. If the weather is considered to be too bad to attend worship or Bible study services, but the same type of weather is not considered to be too bad to keep you from going to work or visiting? Who is first? Mt.6:33

III. CONCLUSION

1. At all times we need to do as Paul urged the saints at Corinth to do in 2Cor.13:5, and in 1Cor.15:58.
2. Or as Paul professed to do in 1Cor.9:27.
3. As we close, remember Mt.6:33; 7:21; Lk.6:46; Heb.58,9; 2:1-3; 12:25.