

# The First Thing 1 – 08/07/11

We have to be careful that our “LIST” doesn’t become our “LIVES.”

Life isn’t “all or nothing.”

Putting something FIRST by definition means that something must come after it.

Serving God is often seen as what you give up or what you must do, when in reality it comes down to “What Comes First”!

The truth is that if we get what comes FIRST right, the rest will fall into place.

**Matthew 6:19-33** - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your **eye or focus is single or undivided, your whole body will be full of light.** 23 But if your **eye or focus is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness.** If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve 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? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 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 (what should be sought after His Kingdom and His Righteousness) shall be added to you.**

The main reason we don’t put the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness FIRST is, we don’t believe that God is faithful and loves us enough to give us the THINGS WE ARE SEEKING AHEAD OF HIM.

FIRST – His Kingdom and His Righteousness

AFTER FIRST – Life in general, your body, earning a living, your body, and your thought life.

The worst thing about not SEEKING His Kingdom and Righteousness FIRST, is that we miss out on the things God has prepared for us.

**I Corinthians 2:9-10** - However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 10 but God has revealed them to us by his Spirit.

**Ephesians 3:20** - Now to Him who, by the power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]

**Psalm 81:10-16** - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; **open your mouth wide, and I will fill it** (seek first His Kingdom and Righteousness, and all these things will be added to you). 11 "But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. 12 So I gave them up to their own stubborn hearts, to walk in their own counsels and ways. 13 "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways! 14 I **would have** soon subdued their enemies, and turned My hand against their adversaries. 15 The haters of the LORD would pretend submission to Him, but their fate would endure forever. 16 He **would have** fed them also with the finest of wheat; and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you."

What are the "Would Haves" in our lives?

**Matthew 6:33** - But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and **all these things shall be added to you**.

Promote Monday night bible school as part of First things

"Our greatest fear should not be failure, but of succeeding at something that really doesn't matter".  
D.L. Moody

For most of us in this room in 25 to 75 years we will be with the Lord and the ONLY THING that will matter is THE FIRST THING and the eternal impact of our lives.

**Colossians 3:1-4** - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

### **3 Areas to put God First**

- 1. Treasure**
- 2. Time**
- 3. Talent**

Money is the first issue Jesus spoke of in regard to being distracted from "Seeking the Kingdom and His Righteousness" FIRST!

If money was FIRST then, it is first now!

**Matthew 6:19-24** - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your **eye or focus is single or undivided, your whole body will be full of light**. 23 But if your **eye or focus is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness**. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money**."

### **PETER**

**Matthew 4:18-20** - And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They **immediately** left their nets or business and followed Him.

Peter was soon to question Jesus about how this decision would impact his personal life.

## **RICH YOUNG RULER**

He received the same invitation as Peter, but responded differently.

**Mark 10:17-31** -Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" 20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, **sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven**; and come, **take up the cross, and follow Me**." 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" 27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." 28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "**See, we have left all and followed You**." 29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold **now in this time** — **houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands**, with persecutions — and **in the age to come, eternal life**. 31 But many who are **first will be last**, and **the last first**."

Rich young ruler was offered to be a disciple of Jesus

He put money ahead of God and it cost him fulfilling the purpose of his life

He could have been the apostle that would have replaced Judas.

He said NO, because of money and forfeited everything.

We would like to think that we would have said yes, but how we handle our money TODAY is a window into what we would have done then.

**Leviticus 27:30** - And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD's**. It is holy to the LORD.

Tithing and giving isn't about money, but about the stewardship of what comes first in our lives and where our treasure really is located.

**Proverbs 3:9-10** - Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

The Promise to the giver – aligns with "Seek First" promise.

**Mark 10:31**- But many who are **first will be last**, and **the last first**."