

The First Thing - 08/21/11

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

The issue with God is not the “Other Things,” but what comes “First” in our lives.

3 Areas to Put God First

1. Treasure
2. Time
3. Talent

Jesus illustrated the “First Principle” in very dramatic terms.

If you don't understand that he is talking about “What comes First,” you will see his command as unreasonable.

Luke 9:57-62 - As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will **follow you** wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "**Follow me**." But the man replied, "Lord, **first** let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "I will **follow you**, Lord; but **first** let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

God is emphatic about his desire for us to PUT HIS KINGDOM FIRST!

Do you know that it only benefits you to PUT HIS KINGDOM FIRST?

Isalah 1:19 - If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;

Luke 14:15-27 - Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in **the kingdom of God!**" 16 Then He said to him, "A certain man (*God*) gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready (*He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies*).' 18 But they all (*hurried to go, because the Lord called us. Surely if the Lord called us, we would drop everything and go, WOULDN'T WE? People like to think they would, but why didn't they? This is the Lord who is calling; surely we would all drop everything and go*) with one accord began to **make excuses** (*put something else First*). The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' (**Possessions and personal life**. *Peter, James, John, Matthew and Rich Young Ruler-what did he give up?*) 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' (**Business** – *Buying equipment and maximizing my investment. I've got a business to run. I know you'll understand.*) 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' (**Relationships** – *I just got married, and I know you'll understand. Your wife, husband, mother, or father are not your Lord*) 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house (*was very understanding, after all, my supper or the Kingdom isn't that big of a deal*), being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' 22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I

say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'" 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone **comes to me** and does not **hate** his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, **even his own life**—he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:28-33 - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, **any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.**

None of us would ever dismiss a direct invitation from the Lord, WOULD WE?

Every weekend and Wednesday, He bids you to come

Every day He bids you to come