

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Texts: *Matthew 6:31-33*

There are a lot of things that are vying for number one in life.

We can approach this in two ways:

- ***Scheduling our priorities or***
- ***Prioritising our schedule***

We tend to prioritise our schedule, depending on what is ON and what is IN for the day.

This varies each day and is always negotiable.

Many people live like this.

They just do and respond according to the order of the day.

The smart thing to do in life is not to prioritise your schedule but to schedule your priority.

It is because ...

- *We only have a limited time, resources and energy to do what we ought to do.*

When we are **young** - we have the time, we have the energy, but **we don't have the money.**

When we become **an adult** and start working, we have the money, we have the energy but **we don't have the time.**

When we become **older** - we have the time, we have the money but **we don't have the energy**.

This is one of the reasons why we need to schedule our priorities.

As a single person who is a believer, what should be your non-negotiable priorities in life?

1. *Relationship with God*
2. *Relationship with your family (parents & siblings)*
3. *Work or ministry*
4. *Rest and recreation*
5. *Brothers and sisters in the Lord and others*

As a Christian married couple, your non-negotiable priorities are...

1. *Relationship with God*
2. *Relationship with your family (spouse and kids)*
3. *Ministry or work*
4. *Rest and recreation*
5. *Brother and sister in the Lord and others*

Talking about TIME, ENERGY and MONEY, are these the only things we truly need in life?

Here is what the Bible says about life...

Mark 8:36-37

36 what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Within the heart of man is a longing, a need that no man, and no thing in this world can fulfil.

There is a void, a God- shaped vacuum that only God can fulfil.

Eccl. 3:11 says, “*God set eternity within the heart of man.*”

This means, our heart will remain restless not until we settle and rest our hearts in God.

In life, we need to put “***first things first***”.

Matthew 6:33

³³ *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given (added) to you as well.*

When our priorities in life are wrong, the very first thing that will grip our hearts and minds is **WORRY!**

Having a wrong priority will always create **WORRY.**

The antidote to worry is to put God first.

Matthew 6:31-32 - *So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall*

we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

And then He gave the formula for a truly fulfilled and blessed life...

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given (added) to you as well.” (verse 33)

What do we mean by putting God first?

As far as God is concerned, man without God is nothing. Read *Jn. 3:27 & Jn. 6:63*.

This is what happens when God is not number one in our life. Everything we do is valueless and meaningless.

Because anything that is not eternal has no eternal value; therefore, it is eternally useless.

People might have accomplished a lot but still feel empty.

When you put Him first, it changes the whole dynamics of life.

As long as He is number one, everything you add to the equation will increase its value.

How did Jesus schedule His priorities in life here on earth?

His relationship with the Father was without a doubt His utmost priority.

Out of His very busy schedule, Jesus was able to discipline Himself to spend time with the Father. He sought solitude to be alone with His Father. Jesus' time with the Father was the very source from which He derived strength for His ministry.

Read *Matt. 14:23*

Application:

Earlier, we talked about **time, energy** and **money**.

Is God a priority in your time?

Are you generous with your time with God?

With your energy, is God a priority? Do you look for an opportunity to help and bless others with the energy that you've got?

With your money, is God a priority? Do you honour God with the fruits of your increase?

Friends, when we put Him first, everything we do increases its value.

Let's therefore be wise and put God first.

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given (added) to you.” Matt. 6:33