

FIRST THINGS FIRST!



MATTHEW 6:25-33



GOD's ways
are not man's
ways!

(7) Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (8) "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

THE *IMPORTANCE* OF THE SUBJECT



It is NOT in
man to direct
his steps!

(23) O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (24) O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing. (25) Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You, And on the families who do not call on Your name; For they have eaten up Jacob, Devoured him and consumed him, And made his dwelling place desolate.

You need
someone to
teach you the
FIRST
principles of
the oracles of
God.

(12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (13) For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (14) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

THE EMPHASIS *MAN* PLACES



These things
you ought to
have done,
without
leaving the
others
UNDONE!

(23) "Woe to you, scribes
and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you pay tithe of mint
and anise and cumin and
have neglected the weightier
matters of the law: justice
and mercy and faith. These
you ought to have done,
without leaving the others
undone. (24) Blind guides,
who strain out a gnat and
swallow a camel!

GOD PLACES *SPIRITUAL* THINGS FIRST



The
Kingdom of
God and
His
Righteous-
ness
BEFORE
clothing
and shelter!

(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 shall be added to you. (34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

FIRST love
the LORD!

(29) Jesus answered him,
"The first of all the
commandments *is*: 'HEAR,
O ISRAEL, THE LORD
OUR GOD, THE LORD IS
ONE. (30) AND YOU
SHALL LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART, WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL
YOUR MIND, AND WITH
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'
This *is* the first
commandment.

(21) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' (22) But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

FIRST be reconciled to your brother and THEN come and offer your gift.

(23) Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

FIRST remove
the plank
from your
OWN eye.

(3) And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? (4) Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? (5) Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

FIRST forgive
men their
trespasses.

(12) And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our
debtors. (13) And do not lead
us into temptation, But deliver
us from the evil one. For Yours
is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen. (14) "For if you forgive
men their trespasses, your
heavenly Father will also
forgive you. (15) But if you do
not forgive men their
trespasses, neither will your
Father forgive your trespasses.

Andrew FIRST
found his
own brother
Simon.

(40) One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41) He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). (42) And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "**You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas**" (which is translated, A Stone).

They FIRST
gave
themselves to
the Lord, and
then to us.

(3) For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, (4) imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. (5) *And not only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

(34) When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (35) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (36) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Place the soul
FIRST, before
the body.

(37) Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (38) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

(7) Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (8) "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

GOD'S
priorities are
always the
FIRST
priorities!

(10) "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, (11) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

GOD PLACES *SPIRITUAL* THINGS FIRST



1. His Kingdom
Matthew 6:31-34
2. The First Commandment
Mark 12:29-30
3. First Be Reconciled
Matthew 5:21-24
4. First Remove the Beam
Matthew 7:3-5
5. First Forgive
Matthew 6:12-15
6. First Duty - John 1:40-42
7. First Gave Yourself
2 Corinthians 8:3-5
8. Soul of First Importance
Mark 8:34-38;
Isaiah 55:8-11