

(Deut. 26:2,3 - Matt.6:33 - Lk.14:28)



I. THE PRIMARY PRINCIPLE:

"R _____ To GOD The F _____ Of E _____."

#1 ... Because we R _____ Him.!

(Deut. 14:22-23) _____

#2 ... Because He is the S _____.!

(Deut. 8:17-18) _____

#3 ... Because this keeps our P _____ in order!

(Deut. 14:22-23) _____

II. THE PRINCIPLE PRACTICED:

A ... Give God *the first* of each W _____! (Acts 20:7)

B ... Give God *the first* part of each D _____! (Psa. 118:24)

C ... Give God *the firstfruits* of your I _____! (I Cor. 16:2)

D ... Give God *first place* in your C _____! (Col. 3:17)

E ... Give God *first place* in your H _____! (Mk. 12:30-31)

II. THE PRINCIPLE'S PROMISE: (Mtt.6:33; JN.15:11)

TWO RELATED DEVOTIONALS:

Devo #1 From the work titled ***HIS LIFE*** (Week 38 pg. 224)

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MONDAY FIRST THINGS FIRST

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:33

Most of us want to be first. No matter if it's baseball, basketball, football or checkers, we want to win. Have you ever seen anybody at a sporting event holding up two fingers and chanting, "We're number two"? Nobody ever shouts, "We're number two," or "We're number three." Who wants to be two or three or four? Everybody wants to be number one.

God does, too.

God wants to be on top. Jesus emphasized it like this in Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." If we expect God to take care of all of our physical needs, God and his business must be first place in our lives.

You can know if God is first in your life by looking at the word "first."

F-I-R-S-T

Let the "F" in "first" stand for focus. What's your focus? What dominates your thinking? Paul said in Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

The "I" in "first" stands for income. When it comes to your money, is God in first place? Are you giving as you have prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2)?

The "R" stands for relationships. The people that we associate with should either be people who are bringing us closer to Jesus or they should be people who we are bringing closer to Jesus. Paul warns, "Bad company ruins good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

The "S" is for security. When you need security-some arms around you-to whom do you go first? Your doctor? Your psychiatrist? Or, to the Lord? God encourages us to cast our cares upon him (1 Peter 5:7).

The "T" is for time. How much time do we give to teaching the lost, visiting the sick, bearing others burdens and doing good? God encourages us to make "the best use of our time" (Ephesians 5:16).

The main this is to keep the main thing the main thing.

Today, I will...keep the main thing the main thing.

Devo #2 (An Outline By Kyle Mashburn) **PRIORITIZE HIS RIGHTEOUS KINGDOM**

Jesus tells us to seek the kingdom of God before all other things, **Matthew 6:33**

specifically mentioning 5 things: Possessions, Occupation, Pleasures, Family, and Self

I. Seek First the Kingdom, Before Possessions. (1 John 2:15; Matthew 19:22)

II. Seek First the Kingdom, Before Occupation. (Matthew 16:26; 1 Timothy 6:6-11)

III. Seek First the Kingdom, Before Pleasures. (Luke 8:14; 1 Timothy 5:6; Hebrews 11:25)

IV. Seek First the Kingdom, Before Family. (Matthew 10:37; Luke 9:57-62)

V. Seek First the Kingdom, Before Self. (Luke 16:24-25; Luke 12:16-21)

Conclusion: A. Do not lay up for treasures on earth these things are easily taken away.

B. Lay up treasures in Heaven where nothing can take them away.

C. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Let God be your master; let Heaven be where you store up treasures; let the other things be added to you!

LESSON VERSES: INTRODUCTION

Deut. 26:2-3 NKJV “that you shall take some **of the first** of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, & put it in a basket & go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. 3 And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I've come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'

Matt.6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. + **John 15:11** “These things I've spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you; [so] your joy may be full.

Lk.14:28 which of you, intending to build a tower, doesn't sit down first & count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-

Section I THE PRIMARY PRINCIPLE

Deut. 14:22-23 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. 23 And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always

Deut. 8:17-18 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' 18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant *which He swore to your fathers*, as it is this day.

Section II THE PRINCIPLE PRACTICED

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, [they assembled] + **Ps 118:24** This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Cor. 16:2 On the first day of the week let each of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come

Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Mk. 12:30-31 '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. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."