

## WorshipLife Session 1: Put God's Plan First Matthew 6:33

If there is one thing that is of significant value to the LORD, it is order. We do not serve a God that operates randomly and sporadically. Everything from the creation of the world to the process of our salvation happened within a systematic series of events that were carefully crafted in an orderly fashion. To this end, as we choose to follow the Lord, we must understand that not only does He operate with order, but – as His children – we are also called to reflect His holy order in our daily actions. In his Bestselling book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*, Stephen Covey includes a habit that he entitles, “Put First Things First.” In this chapter, he summarizes the central thought with one phrase, “Organize and execute around priorities.” The truth is that we inevitably do this. Whether our priorities are material goods, social acquaintances or professional goals, we tend to bend our lives around what we consider valuable. The purpose of this lesson is to encourage you to rethink what it means to be a Christian that is committed to worshipping God and to consider how you can make God's “Plan” your top priority in life.

### **The Word Made Plain...**(read Matthew 6:24-34)

In our scriptural text, we are in the midst of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. He begins verse 24 by making the statement, “No man can serve two masters...” He then discusses the fact that we can't serve God and a desire for material wealth at the same time. Only one of them can truly sit on the throne of our hearts (Matthew 6:24). We then are reminded not to allow ourselves to overly worry about our basic needs (v.25) because we have a Heavenly Father that not only takes care of the needs of nature (birds, grass, flowers, etc.), but also takes care of us (vv. 26-30). Because He knows that we have basic needs and has a plan to take care of them, our lives should instead be focused on “Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (vv.31-33).”

This scripture reminds us that our greatest responsibility to our Heavenly Father is to put His principles and plans first in our lives. From the widow at Zarephath's meal barrel being supernaturally supplied to Elijah's daily meal at Cherith being provided, the bible is full of stories of how those that were faithful to God, saw their needs met by God. Sometimes we displace the plans of God in an attempt to pursue a need or pleasure that we think following biblical rules cannot address and satisfy. However, this scripture reminds us that - in every facet of our lives (money, employment, family, etc.) - if we are faithful in putting God's commandments for our lives first, we will see that our other needs will be met. Jesus says that we should seek God's “righteousness.” This suggests that we should operate according to what God considers to be the “right” way of living. When we make God's commandments and principles primary, we will see the fullness of the Divine provision manifested in our lives. The choice is yours. Whose “things” will you put first in your life?



## Reflection on the Word (discussion)...

1. Which areas of your life are not being prioritized according to the Word of God?
  - a. Areas of Anxiety (read Philippians 4:6-8)
  - b. Finances (read Proverbs 3:9-10)
  - c. Obeying the Word of God (read Psalm 119:105-106)
  - d. Language (Psalm 35:28)
  - e. Loving others (John 13:34-35)
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What have you prioritized above obedience to God? Why?
3. What needs to be reset in your life that will clearly show that you are putting God's righteousness first?

## Strategic Plan for Upgrading Your Worship Life

How can you put God first this week in the following areas?

Money\_\_\_\_\_

Family\_\_\_\_\_

Moments of Worry\_\_\_\_\_

Conversation\_\_\_\_\_

Loving Others\_\_\_\_\_

## Benefit Package for Putting God's Things First

- Abundant Blessings (Malachi 3:10-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)
- Multi-Generational Favor (Psalm 37:25-29)
- A "Crown" of Life (James 1:12)
- Life and Prosperity (Psalm 1:2-3)

## Closing prayer

Heavenly Father, forgive me for any area of my life that I have mis-prioritized. Please grant me the grace to be obedient in every area of my life by making your way of living the top priority of my heart and mind. In Jesus' name, I ask this. AMEN