

Put God First

Part 1

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

Life is demanding and there are many things you need to have and to do. More than that, the temptations, is so much around you. Add to that, your desires and wishes to gain good things, which you think would make your lives easier and better!

But first of all you must put God first. God is the Creator of heaven and earth. All the good things that are good on earth it came from Him. So in order for you to get all the good things that daily you see, you need to put God first in your life. Put God first, seek His Kingdom and His righteousness, and then after ***all these things will be given to you as well***. All the rest of the things that you lack and that will make your life better will be given and added to you when you make your priority correct. Not the other things first but God first in your life, and HE will be the one to add to you other things that you lack.

You love God and you keep a space in your heart for Him. But in certain times and even you might be unaware that you are favouring other things and not putting God first in your life. It might cause you sadness to hear and to know that you are not putting God first. But the message that is in your hand is not to accuse you but to help you to see and notice what you might not aware of, so that you will correct yourself and will be blessed.

We will study the life situation of the disciple of Jesus in the night that the Lord was arrested to be crucified. We know that most of His disciples deserted Him in that situation. They love the Lord as you are today. But they were unaware and certain wrong things entered their lives that took the first place of God in their hearts and made them vulnerable and not able to stand life and trials. We will read what had happened that night from ***Luke 22:34-62*** (Please read that in your own bible) From that Scripture we can conclude what are the wrong things that happened to the disciples and the same things might enter your life that will take away the first place of God in your heart and leave you crippled:

1- Dispute: ²⁴ *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.” (Luke 22:24)* Arguments, fightings, quarrels, answering back, all are hindrances to the work of God. These are very common things and if you are unaware these small things will cripple you and make you ineffective. Let us read the following Scripture that warn against such bad attitude of getting involve in dispute. ¹⁴ *Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.* ¹⁶ *Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.” (2Timothy 2:14,16)* Also the word of God teaches us the following: ²³ *Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.* ²⁴ *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.* ²⁵ *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,* ²⁶ *and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (2Timothy 2:23-26)*

Disputes and arguments that are happening inside the family between husband and wife or between parents and children will disturb the whole family and will bring God's presence and blessings away from that home. Also disputes and arguments that are happening among the members of the

church and inside any ministry will weaken that ministry and make that ministry not effective in serving the Lord. Therefore be aware and put God first by avoiding all kinds of disputes and arguments, because it will not help but will harm.

2- Love of positions and titles: ²⁴ *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.* ²⁵ *Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.* ²⁶ *But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.* ²⁷ *For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.* ²⁸ *You are those who have stood by me in my trials.* ²⁹ *And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,* ³⁰ *so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:24-30)* The disciples were quarrelling between themselves looking who is the greatest among them. They were fighting to have the higher title or the higher position. But Jesus corrected them and explained to them that gaining position and sitting on tables carry honour to those who have them. But to be the greater in the Kingdom of God is to be servant. In Christ, authority is gained by how much you offer service to God and to the people that God had placed around you and are under your care. Jesus came to serve and God the Father conferred on HIM the Kingdom. You will be part of HIS Kingdom if you take part of Jesus ministry and be HIS servant to serve the people whom He placed around you and under your care. Never fight for title and position in the church because in such things there is no blessing. Because in doing that you are not putting God first in your life.

3- Pride and overconfidence: ³¹ *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.* ³² *But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."* ³³ *But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."* ³⁴ *Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.” (Luke 22:31-34)* Jesus warned Peter and He told him that he is falling away and that Satan is trying to take him out from the way of the Lord. Jesus mentioned also that He had prayed for Peter that his faith may not fail, and when he will turn back, he will strengthen his brothers. That was a very clear warning from the Lord toward Peter. But how Peter answered? Peter did not humble down and accept his weakness and thanked the Lord who corrected him and prayed for him. The same for you, when someone corrects you and points something wrong in you, humble down and listen to what he said and check yourself how much that is true and thank the person who corrected you, because that is for your own benefit and good. David said, ***“Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.” (Psalm 141:5a)***

My Dear and Beloved: ***“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.” (Proverbs 19:20)*** God's message to you is to help you to see your shortcomings that took His blessings away from you because you did not put God in the first place in your heart and life. Be earnest and repent as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____.* *Lord gives me more discernment to see your ways clearly and be away from the path of the evil one. Lord upholds me with your grace. Help me, sustain me and provide my needs so that I will continue to serve you, this I pray in Jesus name Amen.*