

# First Things First

## Introduction:

1. Five FIRSTS of Success:
  - a. Give God the FIRST HOUR of the day.
  - b. Give God the FIRST DAY of the week.
  - c. Give God the FIRST PORTION of your pay.
  - d. Give God the FIRST CONSIDERATION in every decision.
  - e. Give God the FIRST PLACE in your heart.
2. The Christian's faithfulness to God depends upon having proper priorities in his or her life.
3. The child of God must learn to put first things first.
4. Consider this principle taught by the Lord in the book of Matthew...

- I. First the Spiritual, Then the Temporal (Matthew 6:33)
  - A. The spiritual is more important than the temporal (Ephesians 1:3).
  - B. By seeking the spiritual first, the Christian will also receive the temporal (cf. 1 Kings 3:11-13; Haggai 1:1-11).
  - C. The fact that God provides one's temporal needs does not remove the individual's part in seeking them (Matthew 6:11; 1 Timothy 5:8).
- II. First Judge Self, Then Judge Others (Matthew 7:1-5)
  - A. Often it is easier to see faults in others than in oneself (cf. 2 Samuel 12:7).
  - B. It is not wrong to correct others (cf. Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
  - C. However, one must correct himself first (Psalm 51:9-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5).
- III. First What God Wants, Then What Self Wants (Matthew 8:21-22)
  - A. Too often, men put themselves first in a desire to have their way.
  - B. To be a Christian, one must put God's will first (Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9; 16:24).
  - C. If one puts Jesus first, God will take care of the rest.
- IV. First the Inside, Then the Outside (Matthew 23:25-28)
  - A. Christianity is not just an outward religion.
  - B. The Christian life is not just an outwardly changed manner of living.
  - C. In fact, it is primarily an inwardly cleansed life (Matthew 12:33-35; 5:8, 28; 15:8; 22:37; Romans 2:29; 6:17; 12:1-2).

## Conclusion:

1. Only by putting first things first will one be a faithful and successful disciple of Jesus.
2. Every Christian should consider and, when needed, adjust his priorities.
3. Have you put the Lord first by obeying His Word?