

## THE PRINCIPLE AND POWER OF PRIORITY

### WHAT IS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY IN LIFE?

#### Matthew 19:16-22 (KJV)

<sup>16</sup> And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

<sup>17</sup> And he said unto him, *if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

<sup>18</sup> He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, *Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,*

<sup>19</sup> *Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

<sup>20</sup> The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said unto him, *If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and **thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.***

<sup>22</sup> *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

Your first priority is whatever you've decided to live for.

### HOW WE USE OUR TIME EVERY DAY DEFINES OUR LIVES.

Our time is important because our time is our life. And success in life is measured by the effective use of our time.

You become whatever you buy with your time.

#### Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> To every *thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

The greatest tragedy in life is a life without purpose, a life with the wrong priorities. So, Life's greatest challenge is knowing what to do at the right time.

#### Proverbs 20:18 (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> *Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.*

When your priorities are wrong, you waste your time and energy on the wrong things, doing the unnecessary, preoccupied with the unimportant and majoring on the minor things.

All the decisions that we make every day when put together make our lives, and those decisions are determined by our priorities. So the key to effective use of time is establishing correct priorities.

### HOW DO YOU GUARANTEE YOUR PURPOSE AND GOALS?

Correct priority is the principle of progress because you will establish your priority according to your purpose and goals.

- Correct priority protects your time, your energy, your talents, your gifts, your decisions and your discipline; because you will use your time for your purpose and goals.

The secret of an effective life is understand the **principle and power of priorities**

#### Priority is defined as:

- The principal thing
- Placing in order of importance
- Establishing the most important thing
- First among all others
- Putting first things first
- Primary focus

### **WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF THE HUMAN RACE?**

1. Water
2. Food
3. Clothing
4. Housing
5. Protection
6. Security

The priority driving most humans is that of simple survival

### **THE PRIORITY OF GOD**

#### **Matthew 6:25-28,31-34 (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

<sup>26</sup> *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

<sup>27</sup> *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

<sup>28</sup> *And why take ye thought for raiment?*

<sup>31</sup> *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

<sup>32</sup> *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

<sup>33</sup> *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

<sup>34</sup> *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

### **HOW DO YOU KNOW IF GOD IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE - GOD TESTED ABRAHAM**

#### **Genesis 22:12 (KJV) – Tell the story**

<sup>12</sup> *And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God(**that I am first in your life**), seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*

#### **Malachi 1:6-10 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?*

<sup>7</sup> *Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*

<sup>8</sup> *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; **will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person?** saith the LORD of hosts.*

<sup>9</sup> *And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.*

<sup>10</sup> *Who is there even among you that **would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought.** I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, **neither will I accept an offering at your hand.***

**WHAT DO YOU GAIN PUTTING GOD FIRST?**

**Genesis 22:16-18 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> *And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:*

<sup>17</sup> *That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*

<sup>18</sup> *And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

- I'll bless you—oh, how I'll bless you!
- And I'll make sure that your children flourish—like stars in the sky! like sand on the beaches!
- And your descendants will defeat their enemies.
- All nations on Earth will find themselves blessed through your descendants because you obeyed me.