

Who's on First?

Jesus tells us In Matthew 6:33: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* KJV

God has said there are certain things He cannot do. For example: Hebrews 6:18 tells us it is impossible for God to lie. God is Holy and cannot sin. Malachi 3:6 says, "I, the LORD, do not change." He's perfect in all of His ways. There is something else God cannot do. God cannot be second. He must be first. In Exodus 20:3, God tells us to put nothing above His name.

In baseball if you miss first base, it doesn't matter whatever else you do. If you run past first base without touching it, touching second, third or home plate doesn't count. It doesn't matter if everyone in the stands is cheering you on or congratulating you when you cross home plate. If you miss first base, nothing after that matters. In living as a disciple of Jesus Christ, if you fail to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first, all else is worthless. God has made it perfectly clear throughout Scripture that His rightful place in our lives is first.

How can we tell if God is first in our lives? We live in a rather unrecognizable time right now, where up is down, and bad is good in our society. Where closed is better than open and cancelling is better than inviting. So, are we being tempted to lower expectations and relax attention to the priorities of what ranks first in our lives?

Where is your phone? Where is your Bible? What is the very first thing you do every morning?

Are you anxious to hear from friends to make your day a good one, or hear from God in His Word to set your day?

Is it easier to count the "likes" on social media, or count the minutes spent talking with God?

God must be *first* in our priorities; *first* in our passions; and *first* in our decisions.

One year ago, we made a commitment to "Building Hope for the Future". We pledged our resources and our prayers to the vision of expanding the ministry here at Hope ---putting God first and trusting His promise to give us all that is needed to live out our destiny and purpose in this community. If we are aligned under God's authority and rule, we can expect to be equipped to overcome and persevere through the problems and challenges presented by uncertain times. The rule, blessings, guidance, and provisions of heaven can be fully realized only as God's kingdom standards are prioritized by his disciples. God's love is to be our driving passion in putting God first, which then moves us to renew our commitment to His ministry here in this place.

It is our prayer today that our Loving Heavenly Father give us hearts that instinctively put Him first and ignite a passion in our souls to seek Him above all else. That He graciously show us how to embrace a life of true surrender and worship in praise and thanksgiving for His presence---immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

The Prayer Team
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