

Matthew 6:33 “*seek ye first the Kingdom of God...*”

Introduction: A basic concept believers should know is that we must put God first in our lives. Sounds simple but many do not apply in their lives. There are clear laws stated in Scripture that our obedience determines our blessings or curses. If we are willing and obedient we will eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19).

- I. Lucifer contended for God’s throne (Isaiah 14:12-14).
 - A. Lucifer was full of himself. Prideful. His beauty reflected the glory of God. But he wanted more.
 1. His first mistake was his believing he was the source of beauty. He thought it was his riches that made him equal with God.
 2. Lord means there is none above. Creator and ruler of all.
 - B. Michael the Arch Angel was given the order to cast him out of heaven.
 - C. God’s rule exists not only in heaven but in our lives.
 1. God has to contend with our pride, greed and thirst for power.
 - a. We must deal with our “*I wills*”.
 - b. Selfishness is opposite of love.

- II. **FIRST** = noun – the first person or thing mentioned adjective – being number one in a series, earliest in time, foremost in importance, rank; fundamental; **rudimentary** (a basic principle of a subject, the merest beginning of something capable of being developed; **fundamental** = a basic essential, affecting the foundations of something)
 - A. God is the noun of the sentence and how we describe Him would be the adjective.
 1. In the construction of a house there is always the foundation.
 - B. In creation, all things were created for man’s benefit. All God asked from them was not to touch or eat from a particular tree. He asked them to not partake of it so as to remind them He was Lord and they were under lords.
 1. Satan offered them knowledge of evil and the pain that comes.
 - a. Man received a Luciferian attitude.
 - C. Luke 9:55-56 Disciples wanted to call down fire. What spirit are you?
 1. God will never readjust His standards to ours.
 2. Society will save trees and kill babies.

3. “*what about my rights?*” We have no rights that over-ride the Word of God. He doesn’t rule by public opinion or majority.
4. If you don’t give God first place, He will take it.
 - a. Americans do not understand a monarchy and rule.
 - b. Romans 3:4 God is true and every man a liar.
 - c. God’s laws are for a reason. Position of planets etc.
 - d. Abortion, same sex marriage, global warming are all against what God ordained.

III. Abram’s faith caused him to leave home and go to an unfamiliar land.

A. First man God made covenant with. Abram was an idolater. Yet he was willing to trust God at His Word.

1. Returns from battle and offers God his first or tithe. There was no law given that he had to.
 - a. He was later given titles as “*Father of our faith and friend of God*”.
2. At 75 he was given the promise of his seed being as the stars.
 - a. 25 years later he has a son of promise named Isaac.
3. Years later God asks him to offer his firstson of promise.
 - a. Genesis 22:5 “*the lad and I will go yonder and worship (to give reverence; to show worth to).*”
 - b. “*where is the lamb?*” v8 “*God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering*”.
 - c. Abraham was willing to offer his firstborn son of promise. He was about to put the knife to Isaac and the angel of God said, “*Abraham, now I know that you fear God*”. This statement implies that God had questioned His place in Abraham’s life. Absolute obedience.

IV. God considered Israel His firstborn even though generations had passed by. His law of the firstborn brought judgment to the firstborn of Egypt.

A. God made a way of escape from judgment of firstborn deaths. Passover lamb’s blood and body.

1. Redeem to buy back by replacing with an acceptable sacrifice.
2. God’s mercy was shown by giving them 9 chances to repent.
3. Pharaoh thought he was first or god.

B. Luke 6:46 Lipservice or Lordship?

1. God does not want to be one of several gods. He wants to be first and not just when the hard times come.
2. Would you marry a person who says, “*I love you pretty much*”?

- a. *“I will love you 360 days a year”?*
 - b. If He is not Lord of all, then He’s not Lord at all.
3. God ordains the law of first things (Exodus 34:19,20,26). It was a way for the Israelites to prove their love.
- a. Leviticus 27:26-28 Ordains the “*devoted thing*” or the irrevocable giving over to the Lord, not to be taken back again.
 - b. The firstborn couldn’t be offered as a sin offering only as a tithe offering which was destroyed by fire.
 - c. They were to break the neck of a donkey if there was no substitution animal (Exodus 13:13).
 - d. It was God’s way for them to stand against the curse. It is better to break its neck than to disobey God. *“If I do not give God what is rightfully His, I will bring a curse upon my life and I cannot afford to do that.”*
4. Old Testament law the firstborn belonged to the Lord. If you had no lamb to sacrifice then the child had to be dedicated to the Lord and left at the synagogue.
5. God required the first of everything. If it wasn’t the first, it did not even count as being given.
- a. An Israelite might think, He doesn’t need my sheep, kids, money, He is the Lord? God’s attitude is if I am not number one, I am not hanging out on your farm.