

Summary

In this sermon titled 'First Things First,' the pastor centers his message on Matthew 6:33, challenging believers of all ages to make seeking God's kingdom their highest priority. He emphasizes that success in life is not determined by intelligence, ability, or opportunity, but by priority. When we place God first, we receive direction, sustaining presence, and provision for every need. The pastor uses the life of Joseph as a key example, showing that God's presence does not prevent opposition but carries us through it.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You quiet our minds and remove any distractions that would keep us from hearing what You want to speak to each of us personally. Lord, help us to be honest with one another and with You. May this time together draw us closer to You and to each other. We surrender our own agendas and ask that Your truth would take root in our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you always do first thing in the morning, and how does it set the tone for the rest of your day?

Key Verses

- Matthew 6:33
- Romans 12:1
- Philippians 4:19
- Proverbs 14:12

Questions

- The pastor said that the difference between success and failure is often not ability or intelligence, but priority. Do you agree with that? Why or why not?

- Matthew 6:33 says to seek God's kingdom first, and 'all these things shall be added unto you.' What do you think 'all these things' means in your own life right now?
- The pastor described how temptation works like getting close to a line to see how far you can go. Have you ever found yourself doing that in an area of your life? What did you learn from that experience?
- Joseph faced hatred, slavery, false accusation, and prison, yet Scripture repeatedly says 'the Lord was with Joseph.' How does that truth change the way you view your own difficult seasons?
- The pastor said, 'God's presence did not prevent opposition. God's presence sustained Him through the opposition.' How have you personally experienced God sustaining you through a hard time rather than removing the hard time?
- The pastor mentioned that 'dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives.' How consistent is your personal time in Scripture, and what practical steps could help you make it more of a daily priority?
- Billy Graham surrendered his future to God without knowing where it would lead. Is there an area of your life where you are still holding back full surrender to God? What makes that difficult?
- The pastor closed by saying we must seek God before career, success, relationships, money, and dreams. Which of those areas is the hardest for you to put after God, and why?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you have been seeking something other than God first, whether that is a relationship, a career decision, a financial goal, or a personal ambition. Each morning, before you check your phone or begin your day, spend five minutes in prayer and Scripture, intentionally placing that area back into God's hands. At the end of the week, reflect on how that daily act of surrender affected your perspective and your decisions.

Key Takeaways

- Seeking God first is the foundation of true direction. When we prioritize His kingdom above everything else, He guides our steps in ways that our own wisdom and planning never could.
- God's presence does not remove opposition, but it sustains us through it. The greater the calling on your life, the greater the resistance you may face, and that resistance can be a sign that God is opening a new door.
- Full surrender is not a one-time event but a daily choice. Like Joseph, we must continually choose obedience to God even when circumstances are painful or confusing.

- God promises to supply every need, not every want, for those who seek Him first. His provision comes in the form of wisdom, favor, strength, and opportunity at exactly the right time.
- Dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives. Staying rooted in God's Word daily is not optional for the believer who wants to walk in righteousness and avoid drifting from God's path.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the reminder today that You must come first in every area of our lives. Forgive us for the times we have chased success, comfort, or approval before seeking You. We ask that You give each person in this group the courage to surrender fully to Your will, trusting that Your grace will sustain them wherever You lead. May the truth of Your Word take deep root in our hearts this week. When opposition comes, remind us that You are with us. When we feel lost, remind us that You are our direction. When we feel empty, remind us that You are our provision. We love You, Lord, and we choose to seek You first. In Jesus' name, Amen.