

Disqualified 2.0

God's Priority

Mark 6:32-34 (MSG) - So they got in the boat and went off to a remote place by themselves. Someone saw them going and the word got around. From the surrounding towns people went out on foot, running, and got there ahead of them. When Jesus arrived, he saw this huge crowd. At the sight of them, his heart broke—like sheep with no shepherd they were. He went right to work teaching them.

Priority – A thing that is regarded as more important than another

What is God's priority? The thing that He regards as more important than anything else. Have you ever taken a moment to think about what God has to deal with on a daily basis...all the things on His mind?

- **God creates (Col. 1:16)** For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
- **God sustains (Col 1:17)** - He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
 - Put your hand on over your heart and feel it thump away, feel the blood being pumped through your veins, it is God that keeps that heart pumping.
 - Take a breath, take a deep breath, feel the life-giving oxygen flow into your lungs, it is God that keeps you breathing.
 - Imagine the Earth as it revolves around the Sun, as it spins on its axis, as it tilts at a certain degree, God keeps the planets spinning and the Sun shining.
 - Throw an object into the air, notice how it obeys the laws of physics, God created those laws and he makes sure they work now.
- **God sees everything (Jer. 23:24)** - Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.
 - There is no place where you can hide from God, no deed you do that he does not see, there is nowhere in the whole of creation can you go where he won't be there.

- **God raises up rulers (Daniel 2:21)** - He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning...
 - **Proverbs 21:1** - The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.
 - Everyday God is directing the authorities of this world in accordance with his divine plan. A plan that no one can stop from coming in fruition.
- **God reveals scientific discoveries (Daniel 2:21)**
 - God grants scientists knowledge, he allows scientists to think his thoughts after him.
- **God protects his people (Ps. 91:1-3)** - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- **God provides for his people (Matt. 6:31-33)** - So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
 - Did you know that there is enough food on this planet to feed its entire population? God is providing for everyone. The reason that people starve is due to the fallen nature of this world and the greed of man. The promise here is wonderful – if we seek God's kingdom first all our other needs will be provided.
- **God limits evil**
 - We know from the Book of Job that God can prevent or allow Satan to do certain things to his people. And even when God allows Satan to make Job really ill then God limits Satan by preventing him from taking Job's life.
- **God judges the wicked (Isaiah 33:22)** - For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.
 - **Job 21:22** - Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?
- **God answers prayer (1 John 5:14-15)** - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And

if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

- At this very moment God is answering millions of prayers being prayed all at the same time.

This is a short list of the millions of things God does every day, BUT WHAT IS HIS PRIORITY – THE TOP OF HIS LIST?

I believe that PEOPLE are his priority

Psalm 8:4-6 (KJV) - What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet...

In a church our size, with so many events and departmental activities, ***it's easy to get focused on the crowd and forget about the people.*** It's all about the one – ***Prioritize the Person!***

1. The Heart of The Father

- No one understood the heart of the father like Jesus
- **John 10:14-18 (MSG)** - I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They'll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.

- **Luke 15:1-7 (NKJV)** - Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine ^[b]just persons who need no repentance.

2. The Reality of Eternity

- **Matthew 25:45-46 (NKJV)** - Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.
- **Luke 16:22-23 (NKJV)** - So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
 - **Jesus spoke about hell more than anyone else in Scripture.** Some people try to avoid the idea of hell by saying, “That was the Old Testament God, back when he was in his junior high years and all cranky. But when God matured in the New Testament with Jesus—meek and mild Jesus—he was all about love and compassion. The problem with this view is that when you start reading the Gospels, you find that Jesus speaks about hell more than anyone else. In fact, if you count up the verses, Jesus spoke more about hell than he did about heaven. *One of the most famous skeptics in history, Bertrand Russell, said in his book Why I’m Not a Christian that Jesus’s teaching on hell is “the one profound defect in Christ’s character.”* If we want to avoid the idea of

hell, we can't ignore the problem by just focusing on "meek and mild Jesus.

3. The Potential of People

- **Luke 19:1-9 (NKJV)** - Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. ² Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up ^[a]and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, ^[b]make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." ⁶ So he ^[c]made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. ⁷ But when they saw *it*, they all ^[d]complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." ⁸ Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
- **Who else could have seen:**
 - **Speaker with a speech impediment (Moses)**
 - **Courage in a coward (Gideon)**
 - **King in a kid (David)**
 - **Generosity in a greedy person (Zacchaeus)**
 - **Purity in a prostitute (Mary Magdalene)**
 - **Boldness in a stumbling disciple (Peter)**
- Who could have seen the potential in you?
- **When Jesus looks at people he thinks "All things are possible with this person and my power!"**
- He sees potential in everyone and sinners wanted to hang out with him because of it. Do you see people like this, full of potential?
- Maybe sinners don't want to be around us because they don't think we see any potential in them???

Conclusion: Someone's testimony about redemption