

GOD NEVER COMES NEXT

Luke 9:57-62 Matthew 6:33

Introduction: There is no question that life has its basic priorities but different life styles add other priorities and thus through the years, one's life priorities have a way of determining what comes first, second, etc. For many they are not in charge of their lives, their lifestyles and quality of life orders their lives and they are but following the dictates of what their lifestyle demands.

I. THINGS AND PEOPLE HAVE THEIR PROPER PLACES

1. One's family is important but Jesus is not "next."
2. Friends are important but Jesus is not "next."
3. The necessities of life, such as work, leisure, school, etc, have a place but not "first" place. Jesus never comes "next" after all else has been attended to.
4. We sing hymns in worship services that speak of giving Jesus first place and our best.
5. Jesus had a way of thinning out His followers in His day and that same way still thins out those who think they want to follow Him: *"...forsake all and follow me..."*

II. A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS LIKE A MARRIAGE

1. One's "mate" must come first before things or people - no exceptions.
2. Nothing must take priority over one's "mate."
3. We allow things and people to come FIRST ahead of Jesus and He is not first...BUT He NEVER comes next !
4. In God's eyes, if Jesus is not first then the Christian is a spiritual adulterer.
5. What is FIRST must be FIRST. No priority on earth is to be ahead of one's mate and Jesus will not share our hearts and lives with another.
6. Jesus is Alpha and Omega and the rest of our lives fall somewhere between.
7. Who would marry a person who did not love you first but had other people and things to consider ahead of you and after all those things and people, you are next.
8. It is not a matter of God wanting to be FIRST. It is the way God ordained it. FIRST or not at all.

III. TRUE LOVE NEVER ALLOWS THE OBJECT OF THAT LOVE TO BE SECOND OR EVEN NEXT.

1. Why did Abraham offer his only son Isaac to God as God ordered? God came first.
2. Jesus tells of a man who invited many to a supper but everyone seemed to have something else to do first, crops, oxen, family had to be attended to and there was no time to attend the supper. This is how people treat God, Jesus said.
3. It's not *"suffer me first..."* but *"...seek ye first..."*
4. Jesus must be preeminent, prececeder and priority in our lives..Jesus NEVER comes next.
5. What can be more important than Jesus in one's life? Look at what all you get.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus isn't standing with hat in hand like a begger hoping some person will accept Him.
Jesus DEMANDS TO BE FIRST. Or NOTHING !
2. Sadly most pastors spend most of their time pleading with Christians, church members, to give Jesus His rightful place in their lives.
3. Christians act as though they are doing Jesus a favor by belonging to the Church roll.
4. To be a believer is to be a disciple and Jesus said that His disciples come in at the straight and narrow gate and there be FEW that find the way.
5. Beware of what you are calling Christianity and church membership if Jesus is not FIRST.
Jesus NEVER comes next!