

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

HAVING RIGHT PRIORITIES

Mark 1:38 “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”

There was probably enough for Jesus to do in Capernaum. It appears that people continued to come to hear Him preach, for healing and the casting out of demons. Jesus never lost sight that His Father sent Him to “seek and save the lost” wherever they lived. Therefore, He said to His disciples, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came.” (Mark 1:38)

Jesus had His priorities in order. He knew why His Father sent Him. He knew what He was supposed to do. His ministry was focused on people wherever they lived. He did not permit others to set His agenda. They needed the Gospel He came to proclaim as well as the healings He performed. He came for all, not a select region or group of people.

How is it with you? What priorities does God have in mind for you? A quick look into the Scriptures reveals God’s answer to this question. Remember the quote from Jesus’ preaching found in Matthew 6:33? “. . .seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” This teaching of Jesus addresses your priorities, doesn’t it? On another occasion Jesus addressed the latter part of this verse, “all these things that will be added to you” when he taught, “. . . what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)

Jesus’ question to His parents is a good one to meditate upon as you think about your own priorities. He asked His parents when they found Him in the Temple, “Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?” His parents had looked high and low for Him for three days in all the places they thought a twelve-year-old boy would be. Finally, it dawned on them He might be in the Temple.

Jesus’ priority was to preach the Gospel. The first Commandment says that God wants to be the number one priority in your life. With Him number one, all the rest of your priorities are then dependent upon Him being in your life, filling your

heart, mind and soul with His good gifts. If God is for you then no one and nothing can be against you. (See Romans 8:28, 31-39)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, send Your Spirit to lead and guide me throughout my life through Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Consider how the birds above Feed day by day with carefree ease—
Does God not keep them in His love?
Are we not worth much more than these?

The lilies grow, they do not toil; How fair is their fragility—
If God clothes these, which quickly spoil,
Will He not clothe both you and me?

Set not your heart on food or drink, Nor be weighed down by worldly care;
About such things the godless think,
Yet never thank the Lord in prayer.

Be on your guard against all greed, For life is more than what we own.
Our Father knows our ev'ry need
Before our needs to us are known.

Be not afraid to suffer loss Of all the things for which you pray,
For He who faced for you the cross
Will give you strength to live each day.

Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace, His holy name in all you do:
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;
All else will then be given you.
(LSB 736)