

**FATHER'S DAY 2019**  
**EVERY FATHER NEEDS TO PUT GOD FIRST**

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

**Intro:** This Father's day, I have given to each man in the Church a custom coffee mug with the name of our Church and a reference to the Bible passage I will be preaching from this morning. A Bible verse excerpt is on the mug taken from Matt. 6:33 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you... "

Hopefully it will be a reminder of the message I am going to share this morning, taken from this passage. My message is simple, every Father, every man, and I could say every man, woman and Child needs to put God first.

Now the truth is that for most people over half of their waking hours in the week is spent trying to make a livelihood. So the average person spends more time chasing the dollar than they do anything else. We have this verse also:

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**Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

The point of this passage is that God knows you need to eat, drink, you need clothes, and you need to pay your bills. God knows what you need more than you know what you need. But this passage says, when you put God first, all these things will be added to you.

The truth is that in all the years I have been pastoring I have found that the number one thing that hinders men from putting God first is their job, their work, and pursuit of the "All things.." that God will graciously add to them if they would just by faith put God first.

So I am giving you this little coffee mug to remind you to put God first as you start your day and head out in the morning to make your money for the day! This mug is a reminder that you need to put God first.

This morning I want to consider all the things that you can be tempted to put ahead of God and show you biblically why it makes sense to put Him first above all these things.

What are the things you can easily put before God?

First of all our little coffee mug is green in color. This is a reminder to put God first above trying to make money.

## **I. PUT GOD FIRST IN THE AREA OF FINANCES AND MONEY.**

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

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Most people don't grow their own food, make their own clothes, etc.

When we need food most of us go to the grocery store and buy it, when we need clothes we go to a store and buy them. So in the day we live, we spend much of our time making money to buy these things.

So can we not say, seek God first above money. Put God first!

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, **and covetousness, which is idolatry:**

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

People who put making money above God are going to, ***"pierce themselves through with many sorrows..."*** according to I Tim 6:10.

One of the hardest things I have seen men struggle with is putting God first when it comes to their finances.

There is always the temptation to take that overtime and work on Sundays. There is always that job that will take you away from serving the Lord.

This morning let me share my testimony of how putting God first has worked for me these many years:

**1. *I learned to put God first through seeking to be in God's house and not compromising.***

Look, I have been serving the Lord a long time. This October it will be 45 years. I was 21 years old when I came to know the Lord. When I gave my heart to the Lord, I didn't know how to walk with God, or serve the Lord, all I knew is I wanted to put Him first and set out to do so.

Less than a year after I got saved, my wife and I got married and then I needed to make a living. The problem I had was that the only way I knew how to make money was either playing in a band in clubs or working in my Parents Bar. In fact I worked after hours late after 2 AM and just mopped the floors and buffed them and earned 100.00 a week for only working less than an hour a night. That came out to be about \$30-40 dollars a hour.

I had just become a member of the Langhorne Terrace Baptist church and the Pastor announced the church was looking for a janitor. I left the bar job to work at the church. I went from making \$30.00 an hour to \$3.00 an hour. Because of this verse in the Bible:

Psalms 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God! Most people would think I was crazy, but I was seeking to put God first and God blessed me because of it. We led a fellow to the Lord who made me his partner in a chimney cleaning business. We were making as much money an hour as I was mopping the bar room floors. We didn't work by the hour but by the Job. One time after we got done cleaning a chimney, I got up to leave, and my partner said, "sit down." I said, "Why.. we're done." He said, "Sit down, I don't want them to know how little time it takes us to do this job." He didn't need me as a partner, he just did it to help us out for the Lord. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. You never sacrifice anything putting God first.

Too many men have a hard time putting God first in the area of their finances.

**2. *I learned to put God first by seeking to serve God not my earthly Career and Ambitions***

Those early years when my wife and I were first married were tough years financially. When we got married we didn't have anything. All I had was a little Honda coupe, no job, no money. In fact, my wife cashed in an insurance policy so we could go on a our Honeymoon. We got used wedding rings, and we didn't even have a place to live. We lived a few weeks with our in laws, and then I got free rent from my sister in exchange for fixing up the apartment. The apartment had no rug, bare sheet rock unspackled unpainted walls. The lights were just those temporary

lights with two pigtales, that we wire nuted in the ceilings. Some of the rooms were open studded. In prayer meeting we requested prayer for rugs for our apartment, and Bill Finley, my chimney cleaning partner, spoke up after church and said, I have some carpet you can have. We went to his house and I saw him rip up the carpet off his own floor for us.

I started teaching piano lessons to try to earn extra income. But getting enough students was not easy. I needed my piano tuned so I called my regular tuner and he couldn't make it so he gave the number of an old tuner friend of his. He was about 82 years old. When he came and tuned my piano it suddenly dawned on me that that was probably something I could do. I asked him if he could make a living tuning pianos. He said, I have made a good living all these years. I asked on an average how much did he make a week. He said about \$400-\$500 a week. In 1975 when minimum wage was \$2.20 an hour or less than \$100.00 a week that was pretty good. I asked him if he could teach me how to tune. He said he would under one condition. He said, "don't tell my wife I'm teaching you because she will think you're going to steal my business." I promised I wouldn't. I went with him a few times and I took the old guy out for lunch and then told him that I was going to get married that next week. He said to me, you're making a mistake, look at her mother in a few years that what she will look like. I thought that's not too bad. I began to witness to the old fellow and asked if he knew he was going to heaven. He said, I think so, I am an elder in my church. I told him that didn't matter. After I shared the gospel with him, he said the strangest thing to me. He told me he just had a few heart attacks. Then he said, "I can't understand why it is that in the prime of my life I have to suffer with bad health.." I thought to myself, "The prime of your life? You're 82 years old. Back then I was 21. Today 82 doesn't seem that old.

When we got back from our honeymoon I read in the obituary column that the fellow died. So I started taking piano tuning classes in Philadelphia, Thursday nights after work. I just started the classes and had gone a few weeks, when our church started a program called Evangelism Explosion on Thursday nights. A friend of mine in the church asked me if I would pray about being his witnessing partner in the program on Thursday nights. I said to him, I really can't I have piano tuning classes that night. Then he said, "Well, will you pray about it and let me know." I said I would. That next Thursday, when I went to the classes, the teacher had to leave the room for an emergency phone call. One of the other students, said, "hey fellows this will be my last class." We asked why? He said, "I feel the teacher is taking too long to teach us how to tune. He said, "I recently I tuned a piano using a simple 4th and 5ths method, I don't need this class." Then the professor came back.

That night I went home and prayed about what I was doing on Thursday nights, and the Spirit of God spoke to my heart and I thought, what is more important learning to tune pianos to make money or winning souls for Jesus? That Sunday I told my friend I would be his partner.

Shortly after that I went to Bible college, and put aside the whole piano tuning idea. When I graduated from seminary in 1982, for about a year no church opened up. I started thinking about piano tuning again and saw in paper shop that a piano tuner was selling all his piano tuning tools. I went and bought them. When I surrendered to the ministry, I remember telling the Lord I would preach, but asked him not to send me to a country church. After I graduated from seminary, no churches opened up, so I thought maybe God didn't want me to preach, so I contacted a School in Boston about going to learn the piano trade. Just about then, I got a call from the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford, RD 1 Uniondale PA, asking if I would come and preach. I came and preached and the church asked me if I would come as Pastor. I remembered that prayer I prayed, Oh Lord I'll preach but don't put me in a country church.

In 1983 I came to the Elkdale Baptist Church and people started to give me pianos. A few years later I took those tools and started fixing up those old pianos to sell and discovered how to use the method that fellow was talking about in the class, tuning with 4ths and 5ths.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you!

You never give anything up to serve God. He knows what you need. All these lessor things He will add to you!

### ***3. The Easiest Thing God Can Deal With Is Finances. It's People That Are the Hardest things.***

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

If you put God first He will take care of you. I can say as David, I have been young now I am old yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken.

I was preaching from this verse one time and the message went a little long, and a little lady meet me after the service and she said, Pastor when I came into the church I was young and your sermon was so long now I feel old.

Each of us have our own life to live and pilgrimage to make. I shared how God worked in my life and I could share story after story, but this one thing I can say, "If you put God first He will take care of you.. " He has for me and I know He will for you!

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Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The mug is a reminder to you. It is green and it is a reminder that God can provide all your needs if you just put Him first.

Don't worry about what you will eat, or what you will drink.

How often I hear men justifying skipping church and putting things of the world above the Lord. I hear them say, so often, "Well preacher you know you have to eat."

Yes God knows that, and don't think for a moment that you sacrifice anything putting Him first. Put Him first and watch Him work!

## ***II. PUT GOD FIRST ABOVE ANY HUMAN RELATIONSHIP, EVEN FAMILY***

Last week we talked about Abraham, and how God tested Abraham to see if he would offer up his son as a sacrifice.

Abraham is an example of putting God first.

Not many of us would pass the test that God put before Abraham, yet he did it and gained the title of being the Father of all those who believe and have faith. He became the Father of many nations.

Through Abraham the promise was given that the Messiah would come and be a blessing to the world. His faith was in the resurrection of the dead. He accounted that even if he offered his son up as a sacrifice to the Lord God would raise him up. This is illustrated in his statement to his servants in Genesis 22:5 where he states that he and his son would return. How could he believe he ***(and Isaac)*** would return if he was going to sacrifice him. Hebrews 11:19 gives the answer where it says that he believed God would raise him from the dead!

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

***Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.***

Genesis 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Note how Abraham put the Lord first, even above his son Isaac.

I have seen people who were madly in love one year and wind up in the divorce court the next. How do you explain this?

I explain by simply saying, love is of God, God is love and you don't know how to love unless you love God and God teaches you.

The first commandment is to put God first and love Him first.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

A person who puts God first will know how to love his children!

A person who puts God first will know how to love his wife!

A person who puts God first will know how to love his neighbor or friend!

A person who puts God first will know how to love themselves.

Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

The word hate in this passage is a comparative verb. In other words, in comparison to the love for your God it may seem like you hate your father, mother, children, sister, and even your own life. It may have seemed like Abraham hated Isaac by his willingness to offer him up as a sacrifice to God, yet that is not the case at all. Abraham loved Isaac. It is just that he loved God more. When you love God more you may do things that show you prefer God.

What are the Sacrifices we make for the Lord today? Before the cross men would offer up sacrifices to God to show their faith and love for Him. Today, we still offer sacrifices but the Bible says,

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1 says we offer ourselves a living sacrifice to God which is our reasonable service. Abraham made sacrifices to God, we still are to make sacrifices, but the sacrifice is ourselves a living sacrifice where we serve the Lord. Hebrews chapter 13: further teaches us what the New Testament sacrifices are that we should make.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

If your going to put God first in your life you are going to have to make sacrifices. What are those sacrifices:

1. A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING 13:15  
These are how we worship God today. Jesus offered the final offering there is no need to offer up blood sacrifices like in the past.
2. WE OFFER UP SACRIFICES THROUGH OUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVING 13:16  
To do good and communicate means to share or distribute to those in need.

According to Strongs Bible dictionary of the Word communicate we read this definition of the word communicate in Hebrews:

2842 koinonia, koy-nohn-ee'-ah; from 2844; partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:-(to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution, fellowship.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

2844 koinonos, koy-no-nos'; from 2839; a sharer, i.e. associate:-companion, X fellowship, partaker, partner.

John Gill's commentary on the whole Bible writes:

Verse 16. But to do good and to communicate forget not. Which is to be understood, not of doing good works in general, but of acts of beneficence, or communicating to "the poor," as the Syriac version renders it: the apostle proceeds to take notice of another sort of sacrifice, which continues under the Gospel dispensation; and that is, alms; which should be attended to: alms should be given, or beneficence be exercised to all men in need, even to our enemies, as well as to our friends and relations; and especially to poor saints, and ministers of the Gospel: and this believers should not "forget"; which shows that it is a duty of importance; and that men are too apt to neglect it, and should be stirred up unto it:

for with such sacrifices God is well pleased; not that they are meritorious of the favour of God and of eternal life; for what a man gives in a way of charity is but what God has given him, and cannot be profitable to God, though it is to a fellow creature; nor is there any proportion between what is given, and grace and glory which the saints receive; yet doing good in this way, when it is done in faith, springs from love, and is directed to the glory of God, is well pleasing to him; yea, these sacrifices are preferred by him to legal ones, Hosea 6:6 and the Jews also say, that "greater is he who does alms than (if he offered) all sacrifices {c}."

I Timothy gives a similar command:

I Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

I Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

I Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

These are the sacrifices that God is looking for in our lives today!

#### 4. A PLEASING SACRIFICE TO GOD IS OUR OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD.

In the context of talking about New Testament Sacrifices the Bible says,

Obey them that have the rule over you, obey their teaching from the word.

Truth is, Jesus is not here to obey. When we obey His Word we are obeying Jesus. Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments, John 14:15. God ordained preachers to preach the Word of God and commandments of God. This is what it means to:

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

### **Closing:**

This is Father's day, and today we honor fathers and we have been trying to teach principles that make a good and godly father. Abraham was a great example to us all. His greatest examples were his obedience and willing to make sacrifices to obey his God. In essence, he was willing to put God first.

In my experience this is the greatest problem I have seen with men. Few are willing to put God first!

To remind you of the message this morning we have given each man of the church a coffee mug, with this verse on it.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The Mug is green to remind you to put God first in the area of finances.

The Mug has the Bible verse on it to remind you to put God first above all.

The Mug also keeps things hot.

In Revelation we read:

Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Let me encourage you to not let your love for God waver,  
Don't become complacent and lukewarm for God!

Abraham stayed true to God his whole life. I've been serving God for 45 years now and by his grace I want to serve the Lord till the day he takes me home to be with him. The 36 years I have been pastoring I have seen some people stay faithful their whole lives and others I have seen fizzle out.

Let me encourage you to commit your life to the Lord and stay on fire for God!