

Give God the Priority He Deserves

“Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.” – John 6:1-4

‘Giving time’ to God, as discussed, refers to the quality time that is spent in His presence, and is not seen as a ‘booster shot’ that is needed to start our day. ‘Giving time’ to the Divine is more about ‘how much’ quality time is spent in devotion unto God.

Giving God the priority he deserves means that God is always a priority in our daily lives, and we must always give Him a special time in our busy schedule to commune with Him. In other words, the day should never go by without spending time with God. This is illustrated nicely in John 6:1-4 above and *Matthew 5:1*:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.”

First, Jesus always made His heavenly Father His priority. Before interacting with the crowd, Jesus went up the mountain, as He usually did, to spend quiet time with God. His disciples, knowing their Master’s way, followed Him. So, here we saw that Jesus gave God the priority He deserved. Before doing anything He included God into His timetable, with the intention of seeking His face.

Second, His disciples, in seeking out Jesus, did the same thing. They put the Master first, and gave Him the priority He deserved. Before interacting with the crowd, they sought out Jesus. After giving Jesus the priority He deserved, they then sat with Him, hoping to spend quality time in His presence.

Albeit for the wrong reasons, even the crowd gave God the priority He deserved. The crowd followed Jesus hoping to see greater signs and wonders. There must have been persons in the crowd who had other things to do, but they chose to give God first priority and to follow Jesus, instead of tending to ‘more pressing’ matters. Then having arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, they waited – an indication of their desire to give ‘quality time’ to the Divine.

Jesus went up the mountain and sat down. His disciples followed Him, but the crowd did not. I used this scenario as an illustration of the attitude we should possess when we choose to give God the priority that He deserves in our daily lives. First, the ‘mountains’ can represent all those ‘other things to do’ on our daily calendar that we need to overcome to get to Jesus, that is, to put God first. The disciples did it. They had the ‘will’ to climb the mountain in search of Jesus, and didn’t allow anything to distract them from doing so. Why didn’t the crowd follow Jesus up the mountain? The ‘crowd mentality’ is one that finds it hard to do what is required in order to put God first.

Let’s not allow work, family responsibilities and any other ‘mountain of commitments’ to prevent us from giving God the priority that He deserves. If we want to experience divine increase, then we must lay the right foundation of always making God our first priority. In doing so, God promises our expected blessings in *Matthew 6:33*:

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

Be blessed.

Heavenly Father,

“Teach me the importance of giving You the priority that You deserve. In Jesus’ name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”

Memory Verses:

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