

FIRST THINGS FIRST – PART 3: *BUT FIRST...GOD*

SCRIPTURE: MALACHI 3:6-10; PROVERBS 3:9-10;

MATTHEW 6:33 & 23:23

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I. PERSPECTIVES & PRIORITIES

- *Perspectives* – the lens through which we view the world.
- *Priorities* – the most important tasks, goals or values that you put above other things.
- Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

II. FAITHFUL GOD, FORGETFUL PEOPLE

- Throughout Israel's story, God keeps demonstrating the same thing:
 - I will be your God, and you will be My people.
 - Trust Me. Depend on Me. Order your life around Me first.
- God continually gives first, then calls His people to respond in trust and obedience.
- Overview of the Exodus:
 - The Israelites were called to worshipfully submit to God by giving Him their first and their best. (Exodus 23:19)
 - Failed priorities led to broken perspectives that gave them sinful permission to give God their last and their leftovers.

- Malachi 3:6-10 NLT
- The prophet's role was to be the voice of God to clarify and correct the people of God.
- God is saying, I have been faithful and I will be faithful.

III. THE MORE IMPORTANT THING

- Matthew 23:23 NLT, "...For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income...but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith..."
- We say God is first, but priorities will always become visible.
- Jesus affirms tithing but elevates the intention as equally important as the action.
- Tithing is a principle that sets a perspective that will shape our priorities.

CLOSE

- Matthew 6:33 NLT, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."
- Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT, "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce..."