



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Our Discipleship Journey
Topic	Juggling Priorities
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Message Summary

Getting Your Priorities Right

In this busy society we have many priorities to juggle. What is a priority? It is something that we regard as more important than others, and which we therefore feel we have to attend to first. Some of us may find ourselves in situations in which we may feel that someone has considered another person a priority over us, and find that treatment unfair on us. However, many of us are treating God in same way: We put other things and other people before God.

To recentre ourselves on God, we need to identify the symptoms of misplaced priorities, and understand the key features of Biblical priorities. We will then be able to learn how to make the right priorities in life.

Misplaced Priorities vs Biblical Priorities

(I) Symptoms of Misplaced Priorities

- a. *Busyness* – we always seem to be busy, and lacking in rest.
- b. *Prayerlessness* – we do not consider time with God a priority, and therefore neglect Him.
- c. *Poor outcomes* – there is no edification when we try to achieve something.
- d. *Low enthusiasm levels* – we lack passion for the things we used to have passion for, in particular things related to God and ministry.
- e. *Isolation* – we are always in our own world and thoughts, such that we isolate ourselves.
- f. *Emotional stress* – we are missing the spice in our lives, and do not know how to get out of situations, relationships or addictions that lead to stress.

We should note that such symptoms do not come suddenly. Luke 16:10 reminds us that in order to be trusted in the big things, we have to be first trusted in the little things. In other words, if we go wrong in the little things, it will lead to bigger things going wayward.



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(II) Key Features of Biblical Priorities

a. One Thing – Psalm 27:4

We should yearn to be in God's presence, to dwell in His protection, to trust in His provision and to have fellowship with God all the days of our lives.

b. Seek First – Matthew 6:33

Before worrying about our own desires, we should seek first His kingdom and righteousness. Seeking first His kingdom is making God sovereign in our lives, while seeking first His righteousness is making His agenda/righteousness ours, no longer being under sin. When we truly embrace Him in our lives, we will not need to worry, as we will have more than enough – God knows how much we need.

The desire for the Lord and His Righteousness should be the fulcrum of our lives.

(III) Prioritising Priorities – How do we do it?

a. Use wisdom to build your life – Proverbs 24:3

Wisdom should be the foundation of our lives as it will guide us in our decisions. So, how do we obtain it? Fear the Lord; this the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10).

b. Guard your heart – Proverbs 4:23

Our heart is where our will is; it determines our actions and what we consider as important. Therefore we always need to recalibrate our hearts to be aligned with God.

We must change our perception of how to align our priorities. Instead of tackling them as a linear endeavour, handle them as a set of goals held together by God at the centre.

Conclusion

Priorities will be dictated by times and seasons but God must always be first. We should be like Mary who chose God and His gift to us instead of Martha who troubled herself over many things. (Luke 10:41-42)



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Questions

1) List down the top 5 priorities in your life right now and rank them from 1 to 5, 1 being the most important. How do you think God would want us to reprioritise or change items on the list? Why?

(Fill In Answer Here)

The two key features of Biblical priorities – *one thing* and *seek first* – point towards putting God first in our lives.

2a) What does it mean to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness?

2b) What are some things in life that are distracting you from making God your top priority?

What are some steps that you can take to get rid of distractions in life?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) Now knowing the two things needed to prioritise your priorities (*building our lives on wisdom* and *guarding our hearts*), what steps can you take to move towards this in your life? Is there someone to whom you can be accountable, to help you follow through with these priorities such that they eventually become a central part of your life?

(Fill In Answer Here)
