Who has First Place?

Seek First | Week One

October 29th & November 1st | Christian Putman

SERIES SET UP

God invites us to seek Him because He sought us first. He gave everything for us, and we respond with generosity. While the world tells us to chase after more, true satisfaction is found only in Christ, who made us, knows us, and loves us.

HE CAN BE FOUND

For the Lord is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the Lord," he says, "and there is no other. I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I, the Lord, speak only what is true and declare only what is right. ***Isaiah 45:18-19***

HE SOUGHT US FIRST

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ***Philippians 2:6-8***

"Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.
Isaiah 55:1-3

SEEK FIRST

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. ***Matthew 6:33***

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. ***Matthew 6:19-24***

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts. ***1 John 5:21***

WARNINGS IN THE WORD

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. ***1 John 2:15-17***

The Warning of Wealth and Possessions *1 Timothy 6:9–10, Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 6:17–18*

1. The Warning of Self-Reliance ***Isaiah 30:15–18***
2. The Warning of Busyness and Distraction ***Luke 10:38–42***
3. The Warning of Pleasure ***2 Timothy 3:1–5***
4. The Warning of Approval ***John 12:42–43***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read ***Matthew 6:19–24, 33***. What does Jesus teach us about the connection between what we treasure and what has first place in our hearts?
2. God invites us to seek Him, and He sought us first. How should understanding God's love and generosity toward us change the way we live and give?
3. Read ***1 John 2:15–17***. What are some things in our culture that compete for first place in our hearts? How can we recognize when something good has become more important than God?
4. Read ***1 Timothy 6:9–10, 17–18***. Why do you think money and possessions can become such a powerful influence in our lives? What does it look like to trust God rather than our wealth?
5. This week we looked at five warnings: wealth and possessions, self-reliance, busyness and distraction, pleasure, and approval. Which of these do you find most challenging, and what would it look like to seek God first in that area?
6. As you reflect on this week's message, what is one practical step you can take to put Jesus first in your life? How can your small group encourage and hold you accountable this week?
7. Read ***Isaiah 30:15–18***. Why do you think we often rely on our own strength, abilities, or resources instead of trusting God? What would it look like to surrender control and depend on Him more fully?
8. Read ***Luke 10:38–42***. Martha was busy serving Jesus but became distracted from spending time with Him. How can even good things, including work, family, and ministry, distract us from seeking Jesus firs t? What changes might help you prioritize your relationship with Him?





