



“Talking about tithing isn’t so much what God wants from you as it is what God wants for you.” - Jason Holdridge

WEEK 1 - THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

ICEBREAKER - Share a “First” you’ve accomplished or experienced in your life recently.

Read Luke 9:57-62 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

- This passage from Luke is one we often skip, ignore or uneasily tiptoe around because at a glance, it seems like Jesus is heartless and unkind in these exchanges. But instead, he is opposing/challenging the idea that you can follow God without putting him first. He is provoking potential followers to ask the question, “**Who do you think you are?**” of himself. This agitation hits at our core being - our system of belief. It’s clear who Jesus thinks he is: He thinks he’s First.
 - God owns the word, First | He owns the place, First | He owns the name, First
 - Spend some time praying asking God to show you areas or places you’ve neglected his Supremacy. Ask him to show you how big a deal he is and how important first place is.
- First in Time (beginning) | First Tree | First Day | First of the Day | First of the Ten Commandments | First of the Victories of Israel | First Born | First Fruits | First Commandment | First Love - These are all examples in the Bible of God showing us that he goes first, ahead, before, in front, and prior to all else.
 - If God must be “FIRST” in our lives, what ramifications does this have on your daily routine, your “devoted things,” your everyday choices, how you spend your time, where and how you use money, etc?
 - What are easy “seconds” in your life? Thirds?



Read Matthew 6:19-21; 24 -

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- In Matthew 6, Jesus notes the futile nature of storing treasures on earth. He does so by noting how easy it is for such treasures to corrode, fade, break, and even become misplaced or stolen. Recently, I’ve lost my favorite hat, I accidentally incurred some damage to our vehicles, and have felt the disappointment of treasures becoming lost or broken. When this happens, I get frustrated and even angry over the entire situation.
 - Have you had a favorite piece of clothing, item, or possession get ruined, broken or stolen? Share with your group about that experience.
 - How can you use your treasure on earth to store up treasure in heaven?
 - Jesus ends with the statement: you cannot serve both God and money. What does “serving money” look like, and how can you guard against it?
- From the message - Jason noted a similar order from Matthew 6:33 to Acts 17:25.

MATTHEW 6

ACTS 17

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| Seek first HIS KINGDOM | He comes first in all things and gives LIFE |
| And HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS | He makes us whole and gives us BREATH |
| EVERYTHING ELSE | He offers everything else and BLESSES the Rest |

- How has our culture reordered (oriented) the divine order? How have you reordered God’s way?
- What are practical ways that you can or have reordered your life from “everything else” being first to God and his Kingdom being first? What’s another way you can put God in the position of first?
- **There are 3 kinds of people who struggle to give 10% in the church:**
 - Those who have too little | Those who have just enough | Those who have too much
 - What excuses are most prevalent for you, keeping you from tithing? Share with your group.