

When Christ Is First You Trust Him First!

Introduction: I Last month we began a series called "When Christ is First!" The essence of the devotion can be summed up in the following paragraph.

The Reason why you are in the mess you are in, is because Jesus Christ is not First in Your life! You have failed to allow Him to be the Center Piece of Your Life! And When Christ is Not First Place, Something else is and if something else has come before God you my friend are and Idolater!

There is a story in Matthew about a young man who came to Christ for eternal life. But when confronted with the love of his life and the request from Christ to forfeit it, sell it all, give to the poor and follow Him, He actually forfeited eternal life!

Notice the story:

Matthew 19:16-22 And behold, one came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" 17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; 19 Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me" 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieved; for he was one who owned much property.

The Rich Young Ruler actually violated the 1st, 2nd and 10th command of the ten commandments !

1st Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me.

2nd Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol,

3rd Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet what another man has!

Here is the essence of today's study: Idolatry is trusting and believing that something or someone other than my God to fulfill what only He can fulfill. When Christ is first we trust Him first! We trust that God will fulfill in our lives what only He can fulfill.

The Rich Young Ruler had a Crisis of Faith!

1. He could believe and trust that Christ would be the only one to fulfill what only Christ could fulfill in His life. Or
2. He could believe and trust that His money and wealth, and property could fulfill in His life what God came to fulfill!

Questions:

1. What are the things in this life that men live for, believing that they are going to bring fulfillment in life?
2. What are the things in your life that you have chased after believing that they were going to fulfill you?
3. Did these things fulfill? Or did they disappoint you?
4. What does the world promise those who follow it? Does the world fulfill it's word?

Having no other gods before our God, Having Christ first in our lives is the point of our salvation! We are trusting and believing that other things in this world, whether it is our flesh, our friendships, our successes, our stuff, our addictions such as immorality, drug and alcohol abuse, jobs, money will be our salvation, our deliverance, our happiness, joy and peace! When we come to Christ we forsake these things as bringing happiness and joy and we turn to God and we say, You are Great, you are good, you are first! I believe you and your word! I believe that what you promise you deliver! Notice the next section. These are the things that God promises and offers.

Read over them and discuss several of these promises in your group. Which ones mean the most to you? Which one can you relate to in this season of your life? Which one have you applied recently to your life? Has God fulfilled for you any of these things? Which ones seem to be lacking?

What Has God Promised? Does anything else in this world promise what God promises?

- Save, Deliver, Justify and Glorify You!
- Prepare a Place For You
- Send the Holy Spirit To You
- Teach you all things.
- Show you the way you are supposed to go.

- Gird You With Strength
- Give You Good Gifts.
- Forgive You, Remember You Sins no more.
- Wash you with the word.
- Sanctify you in the truth.
- Give you peace.
- Conform you into the image of Jesus.
- Equip You, Empower You, Welcome and love you.
- Adopt You, Never leave you, Never forsake you.
- Complete You.
- Make You happy, Bless You.
- Take away Your sins, Crush the Head of the Enemy
- Remove Your Guilt
- Raise You Up on the last day.
- Purify You,
- Not give anything you can not handle.
- Set You Free, Victory over sin.
- Provide every need.
- Protect from the evil one, be with you forever!
- Give you confidence in the day of Judgement.
- Comfort You, Heal You, cleanse you from all unrighteousness
- Save your household.
- Call you his child.
- Establish You, anoint you, confirm you
- Perform His Work until the day of Jesus.
- Keep you from falling.
- Be Your God.
- Feed His flock.
- Renew Your Strength.
- Honor your obedience.
- Let you Find Him.
- Answer Your Prayer.
- Give to you sufficient grace.
- Give everything needed to live a godly life.
- Rebuke the devourer
- Fill you with His Spirit
- Come into your life to live forever.

Crisis of Faith – Will I trust God? Or Will I Believe in Something else? This is a faith issue!

The Bottom line! When Christ Is First You Trust Him First! Take a few minutes and read the following outline. Close by answering the Questions after each point:

When You Trust Him First!

1. You Find the Peace You Were Always Looking For!

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest .

What is it in this life you trust will give you Peace? Day off? Retirement? Vacation?

Have you found the peace of God?

How do you think a person finds peace with God?

2. He Fulfills the Desires of Your Heart! Psalm 37:3-6

What is it in this life that you are looking to fulfill the desires of your heart?

- **Peace, Joy, Life**
- **Financial Security** – to provide for your family and to give to those in need and to leave something for your grandchildren, and to owe no man anything.
- **Success – Christian Success! (Galatians 5:23-24)**

- **Relationships**
- **Good Marriage, Believing Kids**

All these things God desires to give you to enjoy! Not to worship! The desires of the heart if they are desires that lead not to selfishness, Are good things!

3. He Delivers You! Psalm 40:1-4

What has God delivered you from that the world could never do?

4. He Will Direct You!

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Talk about How Christ guided you when you trusted Him first?

When Christ is First You Trust Him First!