

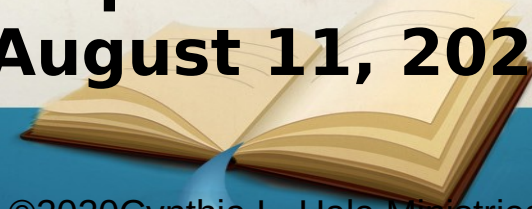
Priorities for Prosperity in the Pandemic and Beyond

The Divine Priority

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale

Ray of Hope Christian Church

August 11, 2020



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Matthew 6:33

Luke 9:57-62



**God's number one
priority
is restoring the
Kingdom
of heaven on earth.**




Kingdom

- 1. The realm over which a monarch reigns**
- 2. The people over whom he or she reigns**
- 3. The actual rule or reign itself**



**The sovereign rule of God,
manifested in Christ to
defeat God's enemies,
creating a people over whom
He reigns, and issuing in a
realm or realms in which the
power of his reign is
experienced.**



**From that time on Jesus
began to preach, Repent,
for the Kingdom of heaven
has come near.**

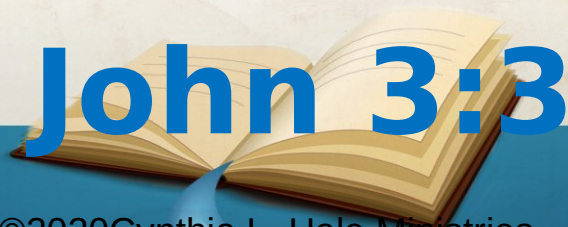
Matthew 4:17



**Those who would enter the kingdom were to “repent”-
“metanoia”,
a 360, a change of heart and mind concerning sin.**



**Very truly I tell you, no
one
can see the Kingdom of
God unless he or she was
born again.**



**Seek first his
Kingdom and his
righteousness, and
all these things will
be given to you as
well.**



**“The word “seek”
means
“to try to obtain, to go
after, to desire to
possess.”**



**Possessing the
Kingdom
is living under the
Lordship of Jesus
Christ.**

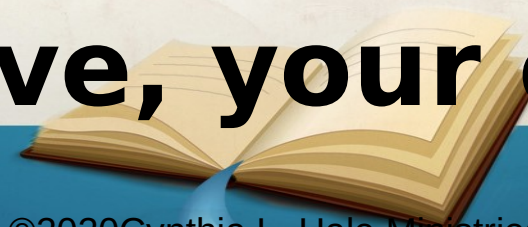


**To call him Lord means
that we are totally
submitted to him, he
is calling the shots. He
is in charge, not us.**



Discussion:

What thing or person in your life does God have to compete with for your time, your attention, your love, your energy?



**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.**



Matthew 6:24

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**Devoted means
“steadfast and single-
minded fidelity to a
certain course of action,
person or thing.”**



Discussion:

**Why is it so hard for us to
make
the choice to give God
priority
in our lives?**



**Being possessed by
the Kingdom is going
to cost you
something.**



Luke 9:57-62



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**used in our text is the word
“Akoloutheo”.**

**This word comes from “a”,
“together”, and “keleuthos”, “a
way”; It is related to
Akolouthos, “attendant”. To be
an attendant, to go with, to
follow.**

**How can two walk
together unless they
agree?**

Amos 3:3



Matthew 4:23-25



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Matthew 4:18-20



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Obedience



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No hesitancy



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Self-denial



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**If anyone would come
after me, he must deny
himself, take up his or her
cross daily and follow me.**

Luke 9:23



**Now let me say this about
restoring the Kingdom of
God.**



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**Folks volunteer all the
time.**



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“As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, I will follow you wherever you go.”



**The Cost - Jesus
replied, “Foxes have
holes and birds of the air
have nests, but the Son
of man has no place to
lay his head.”**



**What Jesus is looking for
is
self-denying devotion to
the Kingdom of God.**



**My food (my purpose) is
to do the will of him who
sent me and to finish his
work.**

John 4:34

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Absolute priority!



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**Lord, “first” let me go
and bury my father.**



**He needs us to attend
to the urgent concerns
of the Kingdom and
stop making excuses.**



Exclusive attention.



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**Jesus wants our
undivided attention.**



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Dangerous



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**It costs to be
Kingdom possessed,
to make Jesus Lord
and follow him,
but, it's worth it.**



Luke 9:23-26



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Mark 10:28-31



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Discussion:

**What changes have to be
made
in your life to make the
Kingdom first?**

