



Jesus Christ, our All in all  
CrossTalk's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**1 – 7 Nov, 2020**

## **Priorities**

**‘Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven,  
but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven’ Matthew 7:21**

### **Priorities are what we give attention to in our lives**

- † **Priorities are what we make as our treasure**
- † **Our heart lies where our priorities are (*Mt 6:19-24*)**
- † ***‘Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also’ Mt 6:19-21***

### **The Bible is clear about our priorities (*Mt 6:24-33, 22:36-39*)**

- † **God comes first, and all other things come second including family, friends, study, work, career and hobbies**
- † ***‘He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me’ Mt 10:37***
- † **Abraham trusted the Lord even in sacrificing his own son (*Gn 22: 1-19*)**
- † **Daniel trusted the Lord even with his life. He knew that if he loses his life for Christ’s sake, he will gain it. (*Dn 6*)**

### **Priorities are a big responsibility**

- † **Priorities define our value system which will be passed on to those around us in this generation, and even to generations to come**
- † **Right priorities build the most important things in our lives, while wrong priorities destroy them**
  - **Biblical priorities are a protection to our life**
  - **They are manifested by how we use our time, energy and money**

## Benefits of setting our priorities the way Jesus told us (Mt 7:21-29)

- † Priorities define the path of our life
- † To have God as our priority, will make all things fall into perspective
- † God Almighty is the best manager who can direct our lives since He
  - loves us
  - values us
  - covers for our wrongdoings
  - leads us always to Joy, Peace and Success
  - seeks our partnership
- † God's plan in our lives will be fulfilled when we choose Jesus Christ, the Way, as our priority
  - Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a thief and a liar. When he sought Christ, he met Him. When he met Him, he formed a personal relationship with Him, and set his priorities straight (Lk 19:1-10)
  - Judas, an apostle, one of the twelve, lived with Christ and even did miracles in His Name and eventually he lost it all. Even history recalls him as the one who betrayed Christ and hung himself. His priorities were money and power (Lk 10:17-20; Jn 12:1-8; Mt 27:3-10)

## Priorities' Strategy

- † 'The last thing one knows is what to put first' Blaise Pascal
  - The parable of the wise and foolish virgins reveals the significance of seriously putting things first (Mt 25: 1-13)
- † Christ clearly guided us to set our priorities. '*But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*' Mt 6:33
  - 'you can not get second things by putting them first; you can get second things only by putting first things first. When first things are put first, second things are not suppressed but increased' C S Lewis
  - Charles Malik knew very well what to put first. He could find the time to read the Bible more than 50 times in his lifetime
- † Priorities are eternal principles
  1. We have to plan our priorities
    - It does not come alone; or else our moods, feelings, peer pressure will become the director of one's life (2Cor 2:11; Lk 9:62)
    - Let us fill our hearts with the Lord
  2. Priorities are protected by establishing a structure

- Have a personal relationship with God; personal prayers, obedience to God's word, seeking His will in the daily actions and giving Him the best of what one has
  - Let Him be the All in all
  - Go where He can go with you
  - Our commitment should be honest and sincere
3. When one goes wrong, repentance is the solution

### Bibliography

Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

### Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

### Verse to memorize

'But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you' Matthew 6:33

### In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

## God acts

✝ Christ is my All in all

## My reaction

✝ Am I choosing Christ as my Lord in every relationship, in every act and in every word?

✝ Am I seeking Him and revealing Him to others?

### During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison

11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

**During this coming week, we will the Armenian Catholic church in prayer**

<p>الصلاة الربانية  أبانا الذي في السموات  ليتقدس اسمك  ليأت ملكوتك  لتكن مشيئتك  كما في السماء  كذلك على الأرض  أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا  واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا  كما نحن نغفر  لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا  ولا تدخلنا في التجارب  لكن نجنا من الشرير  أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان  نؤمن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل  خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى  وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ، ابن الله الوحيد  المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور  إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق  مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر  الذي به كان كل شيء  الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا  نزل من السماء ، وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء  وصار إنساناً وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي  وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب  وصعد إلى السماء  وجلس عن يمين الأب  وسيهاتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم  ليدين الأحياء والأموات  الذي لا فناء لملكه  وبالروح القدس  الرب المحيي  المنتبئ من الأب والإبن  الذي هو مع الأب والإبن  يُسجد له ويُمجد  الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل  ويكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية  ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا  وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي  أمين</p>
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