



"ALL ARE BORN AS ORIGINALS, BUT
MANY DIE AS PHOTOCOPIES."
BL. CARLO ACUTIS

First Fruits



ICEBREAKER

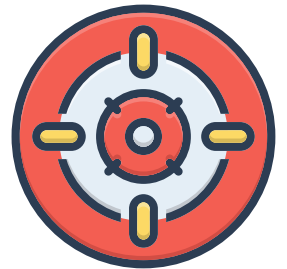


Would you rather?

1. Would you rather have telekinesis (the ability to move things with your mind) or telepathy (the ability to read minds)?
2. Would you rather find true love today or win the lottery next year?
3. Would you rather never be able to go out during the day or never be able to go out at night?
4. Would you rather have a personal maid or a personal chef?

Every choice we make means saying no to something else.

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ (IS GOD IN THE CENTRE OF YOUR LIFE?) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:



What question did Fr Mike ask a friend of his?

How do we know if God is first in our lives, if he's the centre of our lives? Fr Mike suggests looking at three areas and asking if God is first in these areas. What are they?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



Going back to biblical times, what do people want to give God? F _____ f _____



First, ask yourself the question: "Do I give God the _____?"

How does that impact how I schedule my day?

Why was *priority* always a single word?

The second thing is the first fruits of my _____. How can I check this?



What question can I ask myself about my spending habits?

The third question to ask myself is what do I _____, what am I _____ my mind by?

Give some examples of what Fr Mike means by this:



FIRST FRUITS

LUKE 9:51-62

St Paul's advice is: "Be _____ by the renewal of your mind. Do not _____ yourself to this present world."

If I just watch and listen to whatever everyone else watches and listens to, what will happen?



St Paul also reminds us: "Whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, think about those things."

What if I can't answer yes to the three habits Fr Mike mentions?

START



Now Read Luke 9:51-62



Following Jesus means being a nice person, recycling... that's about it really isn't it? Nope! If you read the Gospels, especially a Gospel like this one, you'll quickly see that Jesus places fairly hefty demands on His disciples!

Is it all a bit too much? Well, let's consider what's at stake - heaven! So, no, the cost isn't really too heavy at all! Remember too, anything Jesus calls us to do is just what He has done Himself. He paid the ultimate cost, He gave all to His heavenly Father, He prioritised God the Father and His plan always, even unto death. It's not that Jesus is telling us that families are not important, or that we can't say goodbye to people. Rather, He's telling us that following Him requires radical commitment. Some commentaries of this Gospel say that the second man hadn't actually lost his father yet, that the verb used implies a future event where he would bury his still-living father... so he was really putting discipleship on the long finger! We will always find excuses not to follow Jesus, but living a double-life never leads to happiness. Choose Jesus first, put God first: I guarantee you will never regret it! The rewards are out of this world! ;)

MISSION!

FOLLOW FR MIKE'S 3-QUESTION CHECKLIST THIS WEEK, TO SEE WHERE GOD ACTUALLY IS ON YOUR PRIORITY LIST. CHOOSE ONE AREA TO REALLY WORK ON, REMEMBERING TO ASK FOR HIS GRACE TO HELP YOU FIRST!



PRAYER TIME!

Jesus, You call me to follow You. It's not easy, I know that. Help me to trust that what You want of me and for me is really what is best for me. Teach me to die to myself, so that I can prioritise You and You alone. Show me how to love You more and more by my thoughts, words and actions. May I always want to give You the first fruits of my life! Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON PRIORITISING GOD



- Tim Hughes: Everything
- Kathryn Scott: Jesus be the centre
- Chris Tomlin: I will follow
- Darlene Zschech: Jesus at the Centre
- Rend Collective: My Lighthouse
- Rend Collective: True North
- Matthew West: The Motions
- Hillsong: Christ is Enough