

FIX YOUR WHOLE HEART
UPON GOD AND LOVE HIM
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
ST. LOUIS IX OF FRANCE.



MATTHEW 22:15-21

GIVE GOD HIS DUE

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:



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MATTHEW 22:15-21

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 Matthew 22:15-21



Following Jesus means being a nice person, recycling... just do the minimum and scrape by - that's about it really isn't it? Nope! If you read the Gospels, you'll see that being a Christian requires more than just lip service. Give to God what belongs to God? Well, everything belongs to God, doesn't it really? Is it all a bit too much to take on? 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, How attached are we to material things? How much value do we place on them? Which gets more time, my phone or my God? Buying things or spending time with God? Looking for popularity and fame, or looking at myself as God sees me - a beloved child? 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 what You deserve! 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