First Things First

If You Say So - Part 2

November 15, 2026

Is Jesus really first?

God knows that sometimes the greatest competitor for our hearts isn't the devil standing in front of us. It's the dollars sitting inside our pockets.

We love the promise of God's provision, but sometimes resist the principle of putting Him first.

1. What you treasure reveals your heart.

"[19]Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. [20]But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. [21]For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [22]The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. [23]But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness!" Matthew 6:19-23 (CSB)

The greatest threat to your spiritual life may not be what you lack, but what you've allowed yourself to love.

2. What you serve reveals your master.

"No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24 (CSB)

If money is your master, you'll sacrifice your obedience to protect it. But if Jesus is your Master, you'll use your money to serve Him.

A Biblical Theology of Giving

1. The Old Testament establishes a pattern.

"Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way," says the Lord of Armies. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure." Malachi 3:10 (CSB)

2. The New Testament establishes a posture.

"[6]The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. [7]Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (CSB)

- **Intentionally — decided in your heart.**
- **Willingly — not under compulsion.**

- **Cheerfully — motivated by grace.**

3. The disciple responds with palms up.

- **God owns 100%, not just 10%.**
- **Tithing can loosen the grip of greed.**
- **God blesses us to become a blessing. (Acts 20:35)**

3. What you seek reveals your trust.

"[25]Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? [26]Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? [27]Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? [28]And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don't labor or spin thread. [29]Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. [30]If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you — you of little faith? [31]So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat? ' or 'What will we drink? ' or 'What will we wear? ' [32]For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33]But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. [34]Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:25-34 (CSB)

Whatever you refuse to surrender to Jesus is an area where you're resisting His lordship.

90 Day Tithing Challenge

Lord, if you say so, I will trust you.