

Top Priority

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I. Introduction. Text: Mark 12:28-44.

II. The priorities of life.

A. Begin with God.

1. We seldom look to God when problems arise because we are so wrapped up in a problem.
2. Man must begin by loving God.
3. When one starts with God, he starts with the One who sees the whole problem.
4. Love for God is only possible when man realizes that God loves him first.
5. Man's responsibility is to respond to God's love reaching out to Him all around.
6. The process of obeying God.
 - a. It starts from the mind.
 - b. It moves to the emotions or the soul.
 - c. It moves to the will.
 - d. The body then gets involved.

B. The neighbor is to be loved as oneself.

1. If one starts by trying to love his neighbor then he finds himself unable to do so--one must start with God.
2. Love from God must come first or everything else will run dry.
3. Love meets the deepest needs of our lives.

III. The central issue of life is who Jesus is to a person.

A. Jesus must be Lord to a person.

B. The whole of creation is moving to the day when that question will be thoroughly answered.

IV. We all succumb to pretending to be godly, but God cares about the attitude of the heart.

Application questions:

1. Why must a person begin with God's love before proceeding to loving his fellow man?

2. In what way is Jesus a bridge for the love of God?

3. How have you struggled to love your fellow Christians in the past? How does this message encourage you towards reconciliation?
