

What Comes First? – Ed Crenshaw, April 24, 2022

INTRODUCTION: How can we get ourselves into a position where God will do what only He can do?

Matthew 6:25–33 (NIV)²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

I. WHAT NOT TO DO: Don't do something guaranteed not to help!

II. THE RIGHT PRIORITIES (The life God blesses)

A. THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

1. Whose kingdom am I seeking?

2. Whose kingdom must be overthrown?

Having God as my King does not mean that he is the first among many priorities: God, family, church, etc. God is THE priority that permeates every other priority!

B. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

III. THE RIGHT RESULTS

A. THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON TROUBLE: Matthew 6:34 (NIV)³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

B. THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON YOURSELF: Matthew 6:26 (NIV)²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

C. THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON GOD