

## Priority

The definition of the word priority sums up in the phrase, "Preceding in order or importance". For life to respond in a friendly manner back to us, the emphasis on the importance of priority must exist. An example of this is found in the book of Haggai, chapter 1: 1-11. The Lord YAHWEH speaks these words to the returned exiles when they had set the priority aside concerning the building of the temple. He asks the question, "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ... Think carefully about your ways: **You have planted much but harvested little; you eat, but never have enough to be satisfied; you drink but never have enough to become drunk; you put on clothes but never have enough to get warm; the wage earner puts his wages into a bag with a hole in it.**" It is obvious to see here the emptiness in a life where YAHWEH'S priority is ignored. YAHWEH called the exiles to reflect upon the results of it; "Think carefully about your ways"; nothing that we do outside the spiritual order of priority will bring blessings to us. YAHSHUA said, Seek first the kingdom of YAHWEH and His righteousness all these things shall be provided for you (Matt. 6:33). The exiles did not realize their fate when they forsook the priority to build the house of YAHWEH and concentrated instead on theirs. Jonah fell in the belly of a fish by ignoring YAHWEH'S call to Nineveh, a priority of obedience; in answering the call to follow YAHSHUA a man said, Let me bury my father first and I will follow You; but YAHSHUA answered, Let the dead bury their own dead; your priority is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of YAHWEH; another said, I will follow You, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house. His priority was on the wrong thing and YAHSHUA disqualified him by saying, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of YAHWEH. The spiritual things are of great importance in the life of a believer; putting the kingdom of YAHWEH first is the secret of a successful spiritual life, which will flow into the material life. If what we plant in the first hours of the day is concerning the world, we will harvest little in life; but if it is related to the kingdom of YAHWEH then the blessings will come from above, our prayers will be answered, our life will be fulfilled and will overflow to others with blessings and more blessings.

YAHSHUA appointed seventy disciples to go ahead of Him to every town where He was about to go and gave them instructions to follow and one of them was, **Refrain from saluting and wishing anyone well along the way;** in another words, redeem the time; don't waste it with relationships; gird your loins and run with the message of the kingdom of YAHWEH; this is your priority. The disciples apparently followed the instructions and returned rejoicing when even the demons had submitted to them! The saying, "First things first" has a tremendous application for all to know. In the order of "First things first" there is certainty of success and order. In the spiritual life it is no different. If our Lord YAHSHUA has called us to do a task, we will not be successful by embracing the call of the world instead. With regrets many of us have gone that route and they can tell you that their life has not being fulfilled outside of the priority of following the LORD'S call. In the everyday life there is a need to consider the priority before us. It starts in the morning when we first put our feet on the floor. Besides the physical needs of the hour, the priority should be that of sitting at our Lord's feet to hear His voice at His breakfast table prepared for us. For some of us it will take the sacrifice of getting up early, which is the best time of the day when yet dark without the noises of traffic and family's

responsibility. Seek Me first, He said, and your needs will be met. While Mary sat at the Lord's feet to listen to what He had to say, Martha, her sister, was distracted by many things needed to be done, until she cried to the Lord, "Don't You care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to give me a hand." To that the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary, Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her." Although Martha was doing a good thing, it seemed that she had not put her priority in the right place and that caused her to be worried and without peace. Many of us is like Martha; we do have the right motives placed wrongly. When many times at the end of the day we say, it has been a bad day; or nothing went right; it has been a waste of the day, we must stop to reflect on our priority; what have we put first in our schedule of activities when it was not supposed to be? Putting YAHWEH first is the cure for all the worries; He goes before us and prepares us to face the unknown and the unexpected.

One cannot deny that we live in a society of haves and more available to us. But in the process of acquiring them, we have forsaken our priority before our Lord, and live to pay for things, houses, cars. The priority of our time is consumed in paying bills; we leave our house early and return late, without time to think and enjoy the house and the things we have made them our priorities. This is the result we have seen in the lives of the exiles, when they made their priority to build their houses and not the Lord's Temple. The Lord said to them, Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified; you expected much, but then it amounted to little. When you brought the harvest to your house, I ruined it. Why? Because My house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house (Haggai 1:7-9). If your life is faced with frustrations for a long time, consider your priority before your Lord and correct it for Him to return to you the blessings He has removed from you due to your priorities being last things first, and first things last!

**THINK ABOUT IT!**