

Psalm 25

Today, we are beginning a new 4 week sermon series entitled, “**Getting Control of Your Life.**” How do we get control of our schedule? What do we do when our relationships are out of control? How do we survive this economic down turn? If you feel like some of these areas are out of control, you won’t want to miss the coming weeks.

Today, we are talking about, “**Getting Control of Your Priorities.**” What are the priorities of your life? If you are a student you have to attend classes, read books, write papers, and take exams. If you are married you have the responsibility to your spouse. If you have children you have the responsibility of helping them to grow in the knowledge and love of God and getting them to and from soccer practice. How are you caring for your aging parents? And, what about your job, how are you doing there? Or maybe you’ve been laid off, what now? How do you turn off your job when you are with the family? What is your plan for retirement? How will you and your spouse be cared for? What are you doing about your health or leisure time? And finally there is your faith and your church. How do you juggle the rest of your life with serving your Lord? How do we get control of all of these priorities?

(Show Video)

I want to go back 1000 years before Christ to the life of King David an ancestor of Jesus. Even though David was a king and a man of God, he faced many of the same challenges we face today. He need to get control of his priorities.

(Read from Bible)

Ps 25:1-10 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.
We will read more of it as we go.

1. Getting control of your priorities is seeing them as a matter of the _____ _____ (Kingdom of God).

Getting control of our priorities always begins with God. Isn't this what David is doing? David is speaking to God in this Psalm. The very first verse he says; ***"To you, O Lord, I life up my soul."*** Our soul is defined as our Mind, Emotions, and Will. David is petitioning God to take his life. He is offering God the control of his life. In verse 2 he says, ***"I trust in you, My God!"*** For David, his priorities became a matter of the Kingdom of God. David, one of the most powerful men in the world at this time, calls upon God to take on his personal concerns.

Think about that for a second. Wouldn't that be neat if your entire life including your time, your family, your job, your health, all your money and all your relationships could become a Kingdom of God matter? It can. This is the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. His kingdom has come, His will can be done, on earth as it is and will be in Heaven!

Matt 6:32-33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

David says the same thing in verse 5, ***"my Hope is in you ALL DAY LONG."***

The priorities of your life become a Kingdom of God matter when you present them to Him. How does that make you feel? It makes you feel pretty good. Joy is possible in your responsibilities. They are purposeful in the Kingdom of God! This is the only reason that Christ can tell us in;

Matt 6:25, 31-34

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... 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. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow..

Worries will leave when we believe that our entire life is a Kingdom of God matter! We are set free! For example when is the last time you laid in bed all night unable to sleep because you were worried that the sun might not come up in the morning? *"Wow, if that happens the planet will freeze and we will all die."* We don't worry about that because we believe the sun will rise in the morning. We only worry about things that we are not sure about. But Christ is telling us that our family, finances, job, clothes and food are a sure thing. They're in His kingdom!

Matt 6:25; “therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life.”

Jesus is commanding us. It is the same style of language he used when commanding a demon to come out of someone. But yet, this is probably the number one command we ignore!

This is one reason God saves us. We are not only saved for heaven but saved for His love. Worry is the result of not believing. From the time of Adam and Eve God has been trying to show us what He intended. We have to die to our old beliefs before we can come to our new belief.

Col 3:3-43 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

This new way to live is in Christ. Look for Christ in every priority of life. He is there! Unfortunately, most people will never discover this wonderful way to live. Jesus said that.

Matt 7:13-14 For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Most people are hard headed. They are stubborn. They want to do things their own way. Even Christians can live without experiencing this new way to live. They think that God is only involved in “church stuff” but not really interested in what you eat or wear or what kind of car to drive. David humbled himself before God.

Ps 25:9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. NIV

David wanted God to direct everything. David wanted his life to become a Kingdom of God issue, making everything purposeful. God has a purpose for every priority in life. In what you watch on TV, what job you take, whom you marry or whether you marry, how you spend your leisure time, what courses to take, how to care for children and elderly parents, where to live, what kind of car to drive, how much to eat, how to dress, even how to pray and read the Bible. God wants to be the king of our choices.

2. Replace your _____ (weakness) with His strength.

David believes his life or reputation is in danger and he is in stress.

Ps 25:2 Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.

Ps 25:19 See how many enemies I have, and how viciously they hate me!

Ps 25:17 The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.

David was using the natural emotion of fear to direct him to God. Fear is a good thing as long as we respond to it appropriately. The fear of a lion keeps us from jumping into the lion cage at the zoo. David probably had sweaty palms and needed a few Tums for his stomach ache, but he responded to it correctly when he turned to God.

David was also lonely.

Ps 25:16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. NIV

Sometimes our faith drives people away. They think we are religious fanatics. “*Your job is a kingdom of God matter, right!*” The Apostle Paul also struggled with this before his execution, but it didn’t stop him from sharing this good news.

2 Tim 4:16-17 The first time I was brought before the judge, no one was with me. Everyone had abandoned me...17 But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength, that I might preach the Good News in all its fullness for all the Gentiles to hear.

David not only brought his fear and loneliness to the Lord but he also brought his sin to God. He didn’t try to hide it or ignore it. If you want God’s leading you have to be straight with Him.

Ps 25:7-8 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. NIV

3. God does answer our _____ (prayers) with His guidance.

Ps 25:15 My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Example: Ok, so let’s assume you need to make a decision in regards to taking a job or not. There is no biblical command relating directly to that specific choice so, should you wait for a dream or a vision or a voice in your head? Will there be some miracle in the circumstances to point the way? God can certainly use these methods if He chooses, but I think I can say that these are not His normal means of guidance.

It seems to me that the Bible describes the ordinary guidance of God as not the quest for messages, but the quest for holiness. Guidance is the activity of His Spirit interacting

with our spirit. God guides by bringing our hearts and minds into harmony with His own heart and mind.

Therefore, in every situation, we can determine what path would best be in line with His character and purpose as revealed from Scripture. David begins by bringing his fear, loneliness, sins and his confusion to God and shows us **how God leads**.

First, confess your sins to Him. Be specific. Tell God how your sins take you on the wrong path of life. Thank Him for not disqualifying you from his guidance because of your sins.

Ps 25:11 *For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.*

Ps 25:18 *Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.*

Humility is the **second** prerequisite to God's guidance. We have to confess that we are helpless without Him. We mess things up when we are in charge. We believe that He wants to lead us in every priority of life. The quest for guidance must be the quest for humility.

Ps 25:9-10 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful.

The **third** prerequisite to God's guidance is to keep doing what you know to be right!

Ps 25:10 *All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. NIV*

That doesn't mean that we will be sinless. David says that God will still instruct us.

Ps 25:8 *Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.*

Righteousness does not mean that we are sinless but that we are an admitter of sin and a respecter of God.

Ps 25:11-12 For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. 12 Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. NIV

And what does fearing God mean? It means fearing to insult his knowledge by presuming to hide our sin. It means the reverence of humility. It means fearing to dishonor God's name by not trusting that he is a reliable guide to joy.

This entire process begins with faith. Faith is a prerequisite to God's guidance. It was the very first thing that David acknowledges in his life.

Ps 25:1-3 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame.. NIV

Today, bring the priorities of your life to God and watch your life change!

John 3:3 Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

If you need to be born again or want to know how this happens, come up after service and I or another elder will talk with you. Or, if you need someone to pray with you please come up after service. Don't leave today without the kingdom of God in all the priorities of your life.

Communion

As we prepare for communion we are reminded that the cross of Jesus Christ makes it possible to be in the kingdom of God. He destroyed our sins upon himself so that we could be right with God.

Mark 1:14-15

15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" NIV