

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of January 1st, 2023**

**Sermon Series: Pray First**

**Sermon: Building a "God First" Year**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- How did you celebrate New Year's Eve/Day?

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Introduction**

- Who or what do you consult when making decisions? What's the first thing that you do when you have to make a choice?
- Where do you think God wants to be first in your life? Is there something you've been struggling to hand over to Him?

### **God First in Devotion**

- What does your Bible reading look like now? How can you make it better?
- What are your thoughts about fasting? Fasting is about denying yourself for a season while devoting yourself to prayer and studying of God's Word and should be a normal part of our lives.
- In what ways do you struggle with prayer? How can we help you as a group?

### **God First in Finances**

- How we steward our money is a direct reflection on our heart towards money and our heart towards God. How do you view money?
- What's the difference between managers and stewards? Which one do you identify with right now?
- What would it look like for you to put God first in your financial decisions?

## God First in Serving Others

- Do you have a “God heart” for others? Are you able to serve others without grumbling? Why or why not?
- What is something that you’re really good at? How could that be helpful to others?
- God’s plan is to use you as a blessing to others. How does that make you feel?

## Now What?

**Encouragement:** Make 2023 the year where God comes first. Let’s do a reset and start seeking God first before we move. There’s nothing wrong with having things, goals and dreams, but God’s heart has always been that He is in first place in our lives. Decide to make God first and say yes to what He is calling you to do.

### **Ask:**

- Where do you need God first in your life in 2023? And are you willing to pay the price it takes to put God first?
- Where do you need to deepen your devotion? Reading scripture, prayer, fasting, church attendance, worship, journaling, small groups, serving or something else?
- How can you put God first in your finances this year?
- How has God gifted you to be a gift to others?

### **Challenge:**

- Commit to deepening your devotion in one of the areas mentioned above during the 21 Days of Fasting for Hope.
- Find a Bible reading plan.
- Decide to get on a budget for the new year so you can steward your resources well.

- Go through Next Steps and figure out how you can best serve others.

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord, thank you for bringing us another new year. God, we're believing in You that this will be our best year so far because we're inviting You back into the beginning of everything again. This year will be a God First year. Thank you for this message that reminded us that there's nothing that comes before You. This year, we're committing to growing in our devotion. We pray for rededicated, passionate prayer lives. Guide as we grow in devotion to reading Your word. We trust you to be our true provider and to help us refocus our finances so that we become good stewards of what you provide for us. Lord, show us the way you've gifted us to be a benefit to your Kingdom and to serve others. Lord, help us commit to making you first not just in these areas of our lives, but in all parts of our lives. Whatever you call us to do, we say yes. Thank you again for the best year yet. Amen.