

PRIORITIES

August 14, 2022

Introduction

What is your main priority? Does your life reflect that? (in time, finances, effort)

Main Idea

Decide your main priority: yourself or Jesus. Let's think this through.

1) First, ourselves

a) as shown by self-preservation (Pilate, 4, 12, 16)...our lives, position, job, future

i) controls our actions

- can override our sense of justice (6, 12)
- can move us to try to shift responsibility "you crucify Him" (6)

ii) makes us vulnerable to manipulation

- Had Jesus beaten due to others (18:40-19:1) initial beating: fustigatio, the least severe flogging by Romans: (here, Luke 23:16, Holman and Gordon Keddie) later 2nd beating: verberatio, meant to hasten death (Mark 15, Matt. 27:26, Keddie)
- Had Him crucified in response to threat (12)

iii) minimizes others in our eyes... "His life less important than my future"

NOTE: Others will be sacrificed on our altar of "success." James 4:17, NLT: Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

b) as shown by personal amusement (soldiers, 2-3, 23-24)

Thought: The darker our world, the darker our amusements. People with no light can become quite cruel.

i) at others' expense (2)... cruelty (crown of thorns, hitting);
humiliation (robe, "Hail, King of the...")

EX: gladiator games, public hangings, loveless sexual encounters, addictions

ii) loss of compassion (gambling for tunic)

Oxbow Incident: eating food of those to hang

Prophecy: "1 In the last days perilous times will come. 2 Men will be

lovers of themselves,... 3 ...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God..." (2 Tim. 3;1, 2, 3, MEV)

Illustration

2) Finally, Jesus

a) As shown by trustful surrender (11)

i) God has a plan & He is good

Isaiah 26:3, NLT: You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

ii) EX: vacationing clerk when I called

b) As shown by carrying God's given burdens (17)

i) they are heavy for us; we carry them to help others

c) As shown by caring for others while we suffer (26-27)

d) As shown by sacrificing for God's chosen (30)

i) John 13:34

e) As shown by stepping up for Jesus (38-39)

Matthew 10:32 Confess Him before people.

Conclusion

Gordon Keddie: "In the end, everybody acts out of a desire to please men or to please God. There is no middle way." As we act to please ourselves (men), we grow in sin (Rom. 1:24, 28-31)

Altar

Who has been your priority up to now? As we worship, will you seek God for His answer to this question?