

# HEART FOR THE KINGDOM

## First Things First (Week 3)

Preacher: **Stephen Scott**

### Worship:

**Song Suggestion:** *Who Else – Gateway Worship*

As you worship, pray: “God, I want You to be first in every area of my life.”

### Check-in:

Putting God first is a daily decision. Take a moment to share:

- What area of my life have I struggled to put God first in?
- Where have I seen blessing when I've trusted Him first?

### Synopsis of message:

This week we explored the **Principle of the First** – a Kingdom principle that reorders our hearts and releases blessing. It's not about formulas or finances – it's about **putting God first in every area of life**.

### Key Themes:

1. **The First Belongs to God** – Everything is His, but He asks for the first portion (*Exodus 13:1-2; Psalm 24:1*).
2. **The First Requires Faith** – Giving the first takes trust, not leftovers (*Genesis 4:2-5; Proverbs 3:9*).
3. **The First Redeems the Rest** – The clean (Jesus) was given to redeem the unclean (us) (*Exodus 13:13; John 1:29*).
4. **The First Releases the Blessing** – When God is first, the rest is blessed (*Malachi 3:10; Psalm 112:1-2*).

This principle applies to our time, talents, and treasure. It's not about legalism – it's about lordship. God doesn't want our leftovers; He wants our hearts.

### Scripture Focus:

- Exodus 13:1-13
- Matthew 6:33
- Proverbs 4:23; 3:9
- Genesis 4:2-5; 14:20
- Malachi 3:10
- Psalm 24:1; 112:1-2; 18:25
- Romans 12:1
- John 1:29
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Colossians 1:15

### Discussion Questions:

1. **The Heart of It All**
  - Why do you think God focuses on the heart before He changes our habits?
  - What stood out to you from Proverbs 4:23 or Ezekiel 36:26 about how God wants to transform our hearts?
2. **The Principle of the First**
  - What does it practically look like to “seek first His Kingdom” in your daily life?
  - Which area of your life is the hardest to put God first in – your time, your finances, or your decisions? Why?
3. **Faith and Trust**
  - “The first requires faith.” – What does faith look like for you in this season?
  - Can you share a time when trusting God first led to unexpected provision, peace, or growth?
4. **Redeemed and Holy**
  - How does understanding Jesus as “God's tithe” (the first given for our redemption) deepen your gratitude for what He's done?
  - What does it mean for something to be “holy to the Lord” in your own life today?

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## 5. The Greater Blessing

- “The greater blessing isn’t always what’s in your hand, it’s what’s being formed in your heart.”  
What does that look like in your current walk with God?
- What might God be forming in your heart through your obedience or generosity right now?

### Prayer Moment:

- Pray: *“God, I want to put You first in every area of my life.”*
- Ask God to reveal areas where you’ve held back.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to reorder your heart and renew your trust.
- Pray for courage to take faith steps in finances, time, and obedience.

### Next Step:

This week, I will:

- Identify one area where I need to put God first.
- Take a practical step of obedience (e.g., *tithe, time, decision*).
- Pray daily: *“Lord, You are first. I trust You with the rest.”*