

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

“God Matters... MOST”

* Covid reminded us of what matters most in life!

What's Most Important?

- Health
- Relationships
- Peace
- Purpose
- Love
- Time
- Happiness

Also... experiences, memories, learning

What Americans want most:

- Happiness
- Money
- Personal Freedom
- Peace of mind
- Balance
- Confidence
- Passion

By Kathy Caprino - HuffPost / March 2016

- * Research shows us what Americans consider to be the 7 most important things in life:
- * These charts show us that what we “value” and what we “want” aren’t always the same thing!
- * Relationships, Health, Integrity, Character, Honor, Truth really matter...

Matthew 6:25-33 (NLT) context: Jesus was teaching about money & possessions

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? **27** Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, **29** yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **30** And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **33** ***Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***

Today’s sub-title is “God matters... MOST”

Illustration: Filling bucket with big rocks, medium sized rocks, pebbles and sand...

We have needs/desires, but God must be priority #1. God is the Big Rock! He matters most!

I. Needs and Wants

(just a little trivia...)

- * The average American eats about \$30 of ice cream per year
- * The average American spent \$1100 on coffee in 2021
- * Americans eat 3 Billion pizzas per year (collectively)
- * The US spent \$36.8 Billion dollars on Entertainment in 2021
- * \$535B was spent on housing (mortgage and/or rent)
- * \$610B on clothing & footwear (\$100B on footwear alone) in 2021
- * \$1.77 trillion was spent on food & groceries
- * Our healthcare bill in 2021 was \$3.8 TRILLION!
- * \$3.86T was paid to the IRS in 2021

Budgeting principle: our expenses fall into three basic categories: **needs, wants and luxury**

God is not a “luxury”... or even just a “want”... He is an absolute NECESSITY!

II. Who God is

In the book “***The Knowledge of the Holy***” by A.W. Tozer, he writes about 24 attributes of God, saying...

God is incomprehensible, God is eternal, God is sovereign, God is omnipotent, God is immutable, God is self-sufficient, God is self-existent, God is omniscient, God is omni-present, God is holy, God is creator, God is wise, God is transcendent, God is infinite, God is immanent, God is spirit, God is gracious, God is worthy, God is trinity, God is just, God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful, God is good! (These are just a few, but there are many more...)

When it comes to what “we” value and need most (according to research)...

- * God is our provider. * God is our protector. * God is our peace. * God is our father
- * God is our friend. * God is love. * God is before time. * God is our healer
- * God is our strength. * God is our victory. * God is our comforter. * God is all we need!

(Not to even mention the names of God...)

As Christians - those with a relationship with God - we don't just sprinkle or add God into our lives!

Our life/existence...

- *comes from Him,*
- *is built upon Him,*
- *includes Him,*
- *reflects Him.*
- *is for Him!*

BIG IDEA: If our lives were a movie, God should be the main character!

III. If God truly matters

We should...

1. Align our PRIORITIES

Matthew 22:37-39 NLT “*Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

2. Align our PERSPECTIVES

Matthew 7:3-5 NLT *“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”*

3. Align our AUTHORITIES

James 4:7 NLT *“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*