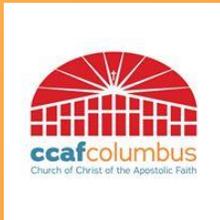


# ***“God Has Wants Too”***

*Sunday School Lesson  
Middle School and High School  
December 27, 2020*

*Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith*



GOD HAS WANTS TOO

# GOD HAS WANTS TOO



# Lesson Aim

All too often we fail to consider God's wants.

## Scriptures

Matthew 6:30–34

Mark 12:38–44

Luke 12:16–23

Philippians 4:11–12

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# *Discussion*

- ✓ Which is better at Christmas: getting or giving? Why?
- ✓ Do you buy presents for others? If so, for whom do you buy?
- ✓ What is the best Christmas gift you have bought for someone else?
- ✓ If you were to offer God a Christmas gift, what would it be?



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# *His Over Mine*

***Read Mark 12:38–44.***

In these verses we see a woman who probably had many wants, needs, and dreams.

No doubt she was on a shallow budget, yet she thought her money, as little as it was, would be put to better use by giving it to the kingdom of God rather than spending it fulfilling her own wants.

Many times we spend our income on what we want before considering what is God's, giving Him only what is extra or leftover.

While these verses speak of the financial sacrifice of one woman, they can also speak to us on a much deeper level.

**Are our resources put to better use fulfilling our wants or God's?**

The woman in these verses had needs greater than any other in the area, but instead of making her wants the priority, she chose God's instead.

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# ***Mine Without Him***

***Read Luke 12:16–23.***

- In these verses we find a man who made grand plans, without any thought of God.
- Not once did he consult God on the future of his real estate development.
- God called the man a fool.

Never fail to acknowledge God is the one who gives us the resources to do the things we do.

**As soon as we believe we are the sole contributors to our accomplishments, then failure is not far from us.**

Sometimes we tend to think like the man in these verses.

We think we are an entitled generation. We feel we are worthy, the source of our own accomplishments and success.

We want to do this or that and make great plans for our lives, often without ever consulting God about what He wants for our lives.

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# *His Before Mine*

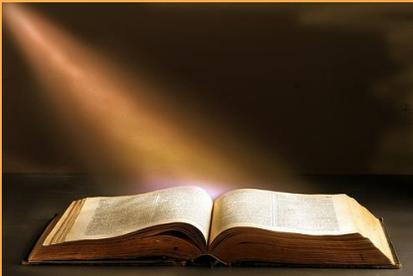
***Read Matthew 6:30–34.***

Jesus spoke about our lack of faith.

- We are so focused on our wants and needs, we forget God is looking out for our well-being.
- We take it upon ourselves to make sure our needs are supplied, never having the faith to allow God to take care of us.

**Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom, and all the other stuff we fret about will come.**

Often we are so caught up in seeking our own kingdom, we rarely give a thought to His kingdom.



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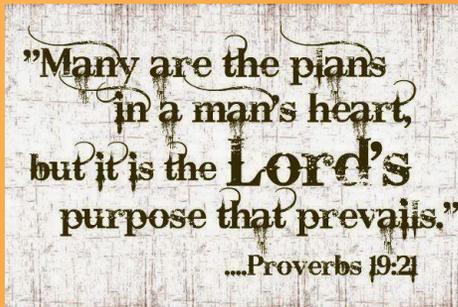
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# *All I Want for Christmas Is What Jesus Wants in My Life*

During this Christmas season, where is Christ in all your wants?

In your career, relationships, budget, and goals, where is Christ in all your wants?

**We spend all our time figuring out what we want and very little time, if any, figuring out what God wants.**



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# *I Have Wants*

In life we all have wants. We all have desires, goals, even dreams for what our future holds.

We know what we want, and we do whatever it takes to get us there, even if it takes all our resources.

Have you ever stopped to think of what God wants for your life, and how He wants you to use your resources?

God's wants cannot be an afterthought. His wants should take precedence over our own, not because He is a dictator, but because He is perfect and His way is perfect.



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# *I Have Plans*

As humans we are prone, at times, to making decisions on the fly.

**In our haste we sometimes make decisions without thinking of God.**

Almost in contrast to our knack for spur of the moment decisions is our propensity to make long-term plans for our lives.

Even in this planning, we typically exempt God from the equation.

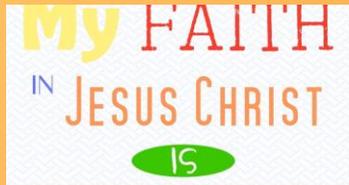
- I want to be this . . .
- I want to achieve that . . .
- I want this relationship . . .
- I want that profession . . .
- I want to attend that college . . .

All this planning is done without asking what God wants.



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# *Where is My Faith and His Kingdom in All My Plans*



Where is our faith and trust in God?

Are we confident that we can do a better job fulfilling our wants and needs than He can?

How foolish of us to think we are the authors and equippers of our lives and not God.

**Often we are too busy seeking after our own kingdom to even recognize or consider God's kingdom.**

We are too distracted by our own wants to realize if we focus on Him, then all those other things will fall into place.

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# *All I Want for My Life Is . . .*

All I want for my life is for God to reign.

All I want for my life is to trust in Him.

All I want for my life is to make His kingdom my **first** priority.

All I want for my life is His plans and not mine.



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# *A Little Extra . . .*



*Have you ever found money sitting in the middle of the street or a parking lot and picked it up? Did you first think about finding the person to whom it belonged or spending it? When someone gives you money for your birthday, do you put it in the bank and take a while to think about how you will spend it, or do you spend it as soon as possible?*

*We live in a consumer-centric society, meaning we feel pressure to spend every dime we get. Jesus called us, instead, to be wise stewards and to consider His kingdom before we invest in ourselves. Certainly, we can think about this in terms of money; however, money is not the only resource we have. Our time and talents should also be invested in the work of God.*

*Think about the last time you had a free Saturday. Did you volunteer to help with outreach or a project around the church/community, or did you grab a video game controller? The more you train yourself now to think of the kingdom of God first, the easier you will find it to do as an adult.*



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# Matthew 6:30–34

- <sup>30</sup> Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?
- <sup>31</sup> Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- <sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- <sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- <sup>34</sup> Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

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# Mark 12:38–44

- <sup>38</sup> And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,
- <sup>39</sup> And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:
- <sup>40</sup> Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.
- <sup>41</sup> And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.
- <sup>40</sup> Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.
- <sup>41</sup> And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.
- <sup>42</sup> And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.
- <sup>43</sup> And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:
- <sup>44</sup> For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

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# Luke 12:16–23

<sup>16</sup> And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

<sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

<sup>18</sup> And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

<sup>20</sup> But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

<sup>21</sup> So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

<sup>22</sup> And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

<sup>23</sup> The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

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