



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 22

**Lesson Title:** In the Gap Zone – Praying for Priorities

**Take Home Point:** Pray for priorities – ask for God to work in your life.

#### **Warm-Up:**

Do you know someone who likes to worry? Who finds it enjoyable to think and fret about things beyond their control? Oh, they may say it doesn't do any good to worry, and how much they don't like to do it, but secretly it brings great satisfaction. (You may be this kind of person yourself!) I know one or two. And I must admit that on occasion I can fret with the best. But what is the gain? Of course, I've learned it does no good, and that's no surprise. About two thousand years ago, Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" The temptation to worry is one of those basic tests of trust that God presents – our way or his way? His way brings peace.

**Read:** Luke 11:2, 12:7, 22-31

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

Why are we to not worry?

What is it we are to seek first?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

What is the kingdom that will come to which Jesus refers twice in these verses?

What do you think it means to worry?

#### **Insight:**

Whether we realize it or not, we all have priorities and we live by them. For some, it is easily recognizable because they make lists of things to do and put them in order to know what to do first. Others don't make lists, but know what they want to do and what they will do first. Even the most disorganized make decisions about what to do with their time, which means something becomes priority because it will get done first. So what are your priorities? If someone could watch you every day for a week, what would they learn about your priorities? What would they discover is important to you? Would they find that a relationship with Jesus is important enough to get some of your time every single day? I recall the story of a lesson in priorities. An instructor took a jar and spread some rocks, some pebbles, sand, and water in front of it. "What should go in first?" he asked. Different students shouted different items. He held up hand for silence. "I'll put the rocks in first," he said. After filling the container with rock, he asked them, "Can I put anything more in?" He added a number of pebbles around the rocks. "Anything more?" He poured sand around the rocks and pebbles. "Anything more?" He added water until the jar was full. The lesson – make time for the big things and everything else will fit in around them.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

What are you worried about? What can you do with your worry?

How are you seeking the kingdom of God? What can you do this week to demonstrate it to him?

**Kingdom Quest year 2**