

BACKWARD

-Ryan Parsons-

The world we live in is backward. It always has been. Sin/rebellion always orders things opposite of the created order. It is one of the strategies of Satan. If he can reorder things according to his will (the opposite of God's will), he can dismantle our relationship with the Lord. It's not that Adam and Eve didn't want a relationship with God. The darkness just convinced them to want the relationship without obedience. It didn't work out very well for them.

Things aren't any different today. In fact, our world is being increasingly seduced by the same idea. So in our world we say things like:

The cart before the horse

However, we also see it manifest itself in many different ways. Culture is trying to rewrite itself according to the lie that began in the garden. It plays out in secular and spiritual ways all around us. Humanity wants:

Dividends before the investment
Retirement before the work
Intimacy without the relationship
Fitness without the workout
Outcomes before the output

Does it happen to God's people? Of course it does. It happened in the wilderness. It happened in the kingdom that Israel begged God for. It existed during the time of the prophets and was around when Jesus came onto the scene two thousand years ago. It even tempts us today.

Jesus knew this, and he taught proactively to counter Satan's tactics. He said:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. - Matthew 6:33

May we always keep first things first.

Matthew 19:29-30

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.