

Priorities



Week Thirteen

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Matthew 6:19–34

CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL VISION

Central vision is the middle circular part of vision, the area that one's attention is focused on. Without this vision, one cannot see what they are trying to focus on, while they see everything else. Individuals can see around the focal point, but their sight is fuzzy, and they cannot make out anything that is front of them.

Peripheral vision is the outside part, where you can see things coming at you from the side. Without this, one can have tunnel vision, in which there is a definite focal point but nothing else around it. Poor peripheral vision leads to accidents because of the limited perspective.

You can discern the difference by placing the pointer finger of each hand in front of your face with your arms straight out. Choose one finger and focus on it. While staring at the first finger, swing your other finger and arm slowly away from it. Measure the distance of your peripheral vision by ascertaining the line where the finger can no longer be seen by your peripheral vision.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preached on trusting in the Father's providence. Several times He says not to worry (Matthew 6:25, 27, 28, 31, 34), concluding with "Seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matt. 6:33). This lesson will look at priorities when understanding the will of God.

Many things in this world are needed and take up our central vision. Some peripheral concerns we also need to be aware of. While to many the difference between central and peripheral concerns is implicitly common sense, Jesus sets a new way of thinking which becomes crucial to find that sweet spot in the will of God.



inScribe

Write out Matthew 6:19–34 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Matthew 6:31–34. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Matthew 6:19–34. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What is in your life that has become central instead of the kingdom of God and His righteousness?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/will13-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Perhaps you have made God your first, but in what ways have we made Him our last in our decision making?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will13-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Deuteronomy 6:5–9
- Ecclesiastes 9:10
- Matthew 22:36–40
- Proverbs 3:5–12



What other verses/promises come to mind in seeking God first?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 6:19–34.



Where is Jesus in the
midst of the prophecies of
Matthew 6:19–34?



Where is Jesus in your decision
making?

What is He saying to you through
these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently
or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will13-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are personal
applications you are
convicted of in your life?

A large grid of small dots for writing notes.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inversebible.org/will13-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



How does one discover what is central in one's life?

What is it that is central in your life?

How does one make their needs peripheral and God's kingdom central?

What are examples of modern rust? Modern moths? Modern thieves?

What are different ways of making God last?

How do we make God best in our decision making?

What are new revelations of God's will to you?

Are we the happiest people in the world? Why or why not?