

# 2023 DANIEL FAST

## R.E.A.L.

Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for

### DAY 18

**Romans 12:9-12** [The Voice Translation] *“Love others well, and don’t hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. <sup>10</sup> Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. **Be first to honor others by putting them first.** <sup>11</sup> Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming and devote yourselves to prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.”*

Matthew 6:33 says to, “seek first the Kingdom of God.” In seeking first, the Kingdom of God, you will find that honoring others is a major part of living in God’s Kingdom. We are encouraged and commanded to “be the first” to put others, first! This word, “honor,” means to value, to respect, to give worth, and to esteem. Too many times we miss the opportunity that God has placed before us to “be the first” to give a person the respect that is due them.

Honoring another individual is placing value upon them. It makes a statement to them that they have worth in this life. Our lives are so fast paced that we miss those who should be given honor and placed first. Giving up your seat so an elderly man can sit or preferring a woman who is pregnant, shows that you care, you’ve put them “first” above your need to have a seat. Helping those who are less fortunate, giving monetarily to help a cause, and even giving up your place standing in a line, are but small gestures in the eyes of people but in the eyes of God, they are Kingdom actions.

“Be the first to honor others by putting them first” should be how we live our daily lives as a Christian. As we endeavor to possibly repair past relationships that are broken, nurture our present relationships, and prepare our hearts and lives for future relationships, let us be the friend who constantly puts their friends, first. That is truly “loving people well.”

It’s time to build Relationships Everyone’s Always Looking for!

## **Worship Song:**

*"Glorious Day"* – Passion [featuring Kristian Stanfill]

<https://youtu.be/4Rp8mUwKx3s>

## **Scripture Readings:**

Romans 13:7 [Easy-To-Read Version] *"Give everyone what you owe them. If you owe them any kind of tax, then pay it. Show respect to those you should respect. And show honor to those you should honor."*

Philippians 2:3 [Easy-To Read Version] *"In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves."*

1 Corinthians 10:24 [The Living Bible] *"Don't think only of yourself. Try to think of the other fellow, too, and what is best for him."*

## **Prayer:**

Father, help me to put others first! Help me to be the person that values people, that shows respect and admiration to them. I desire to seek first the Kingdom of God. In doing so, may my thoughts, actions, and gestures all be for the glory of Your Kingdom and to honor your highest and most precious possession, people. When I put others first, I am showing them not only do I value them, but that they have worth. Turn my focus from being upon myself to being *"others minded."* I desire to love others well. I desire to put others first. In the Name of Jesus I pray, amen!

## **Today, I need to pray for:**

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## **What is God telling me today?**

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