

Above All Let Her Not Neglect or Undervalue

by St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict emphasizes the critical responsibility of leaders to prioritize the spiritual welfare of those entrusted to them while remaining accountable to God.

Scripture: Psalm 34:10, Proverbs 11:30, Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 13:17

Topics: "Spiritual Leadership", "Kingdom Priorities"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of not neglecting the welfare of souls under one's care, highlighting the accountability leaders have in guiding and nurturing others towards spiritual growth. He encourages prioritizing the kingdom of God over earthly concerns, trusting that God will provide all that is needed. Leaders are reminded to be diligent in preparing to give an account for the souls entrusted to them, understanding the weight of responsibility in shepherding others towards righteousness and being mindful of their own spiritual journey.

Transcript

Above all let her not neglect or undervalue the welfare of the souls committed to her, in a greater concern for fleeting, earthly, perishable things; but let her always bear in mind that she has undertaken the government of souls and that she will have to give an account of them. And if she be tempted to allege a lack of earthly means, let her remember what is written: "First seek the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be given you besides" (Ps. 33[34]:10).

And again: "Nothing is wanting to those who fear Him." Let her know, then, that she who has undertaken the government of souls must prepare herself to render an account of them.

Whatever number of sisters she knows she has under her care, she may be sure beyond doubt that on Judgment Day she will have to give the Lord an account of all these souls, as well as of her own soul. Thus the constant apprehension about her coming examination as shepherd (Ezech. 34) concerning the sheep entrusted to her, and her anxiety over the account that must be given for others, make her careful of her own record. And while by her admonitions she is helping others to amend, she herself is cleansed of her faults.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/above-all-let-her-not-neglect-or-undervalue/>

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