**A Our priorities.**

❖ Jesus listed the main priorities of the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven:

1. **Taking care of our basic needs** (Matthew 6:25-32): Don't be overwhelmed by them. God always supplies.
2. **Seeking the Kingdom of God** (Matthew 6:33): The Kingdom of God is at the center, not us.
3. **Seeking the justice of the Kingdom** (Matthew 6:33): Helping those in need and the oppressed.

❖ What should we do when priorities 3 and 4 are in conflict?

**B Our attitude.**

❖ **Compassionate.**

— As Christians, we must be compassionate and help those in need. This should not be an impulsive help.
— Consider the following:
  1. Compassion: We should empathize with those who suffer.
  2. Education: We should learn about others' situations and act only after we have the necessary information.
  3. Prayer: We should pray for God's wisdom before acting.
  4. Expectations: We should always help, even if those whom we help don't react the way we expect.

❖ **Generous.**

— We cannot always help those in need in person. There are people we can help who live far away.
— In those cases, economic help is a good option. The Bible encourages us to be generous (Pr. 19:17).
— Our generosity is a response to God's generosity (1Chr. 29:14; 2Co. 8:9). It's an effective antidote for selfishness.
— Generosity is not a one-time or forced act. A generous spirit must be cultivated; a permanent urge to help others.

❖ **Peacemakers.**

— There are political, economic and hate conflicts between nations, tribes, ethnic groups or communities that bring suffering and the need for humanitarian aid.
— Jesus taught us to avoid beginning conflicts: don't get angry, don't hold in resentment, love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you...
— The "gospel of peace" shapes our thoughts about other people and how we treat them.

❖ **Defenders.**

— As the old prophets, we must be the voice of those who don't have one. We must speak up to defend the defenseless.
— Our single voice may not change a specific situation, but we cannot say nothing.
— In addition, our voice as a local, national and global church is stronger.