

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Text: Matthew 6:24-33

This scripture is a portion of Jesus's sermon on the mount which is a kingdom message. What he is dealing with here is that we cannot faithfully serve two masters because our true allegiance will always favor one above the other. The masters contrasted are God and mammon. Mammon is an Aramaic term that means "wealth or material possessions that you put your trust in". It's not a sin to have wealth or material possessions as long as you don't look to them for your security.

He then makes a radical statement "take no thought for your life" which doesn't mean that we live haphazardly, instead it means that we don't rely upon ourselves for our living. In the kingdom of God, the Father provides for His children. Jesus illustrates this point by the fact that the birds don't work or worry, and they are fed by God every day. The grass of the field doesn't labor and toil, yet God gives it beautiful array more so than Solomon in his glory. Jesus makes the point that the godless seek after mammon. Their focus is on self-reliance and self-preservation and that creates a lot of stress. But in the kingdom of God, our heavenly Father knows that we need of all these things. Jesus instructs us to be focused on something else and not be like the lost. He tells us to seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and then the promise is that all these things will be added to us. Let's break this down so we can better understand it.

SEEK FIRST – That means that this is supposed to have the highest priority in my life. If someone were to spend a month living with us in our homes, what would they say that we are seeking first? What are we pursuing? Mammon? Pleasure? Our careers or jobs? But you say "I've got to make a living and pay the bills" but Jesus said our heavenly Father knows that we have needs. Again, it's not wrong to have wealth or enjoy legitimate pleasures as long as it isn't what you're seeking first.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD – This means "God's rule over every area of life". Now that we're saved, we have switched kingdoms the reason we were floundering around in life is because before we were saved, we lived life under our own rule in darkness and wickedness. Now that we're saved, God has commands for us on how to live in His kingdom. Our life has many areas: marriage, family, relationships, finances, work etc. and God has commands for living life in alignment with His rule in all these areas.

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS – This is about living to God’s moral standards. Striving to live a life of holiness, truth and love, reflecting the character of God in our daily interactions. Loving others with an agape love instead of being focused on self.

THE PROMISE – And all these things shall be added unto you. We will enter into rest because God is providing all that we need.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TWOFOLD: For God’s goal and your good.

GOD’S GOAL - First God’s goal is that when you live in submission to His rule, you become light in the darkness **Philippians 2:15** That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; *If we don’t live under God’s rule, we won’t be light and God cannot be found in the dark!* **Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

YOUR GOOD – Coming into alignment with God’s kingdom will change some things in our lives.

- **Power** – You can’t have access to the power of God as long as you’re living in opposition to God’s rule. (Israel having two kings simultaneously illustrates that)
- **Prayer** - **John 15:7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- **Peace** – There is a difference in having peace with God and having the peace of God. The peace of God guards your heart and mind amid trouble.
- **Protection** - **Psalms 125:1-2** A Song of degrees. They that trust in the LORD *shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.*