

## SEEK YE FIRST

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that our goal or purpose in life is to seek first the kingdom of God. This is a challenge God has given us!!!
2. Text - Mt. 6:33
  - a. Context - Sermon on the Mount
  - b. In Verses 19-34 he is discussing earthly goods
  - c. In v. 25-34 he is discussing worry and anxiety and gives reasons why we should not worry about the necessities of life!
    - (1) Life is more than food - if God gives you life then he will not fail to provide things necessary to sustain that life. V. 25
    - (2) God Cares for the Birds - We are of more value than the birds. v. 26
    - (3) Worry does not add anything to life. It may take something away. v.27
    - (4) Consider the fields - grass, lilies - God cares for them v.28-30
    - (5) The Gentiles seek after all these things -- indicating they are not believers and followers of God. But you are a child of God. Act like it. V.31-32
    - (6) Seek first is an alternative to worry v.33
    - (7) Tomorrow will take care of itself. v.34
    - (8) Each day has plenty of its own cares without worrying about the past or the future.v.34
3. Our lesson today is about Reason # 6 as to why we should not be anxious or filled with worry and doubt and depression. God Gives the solution to the problem of Worry!!! Mt. 6:33 Seeking first the Kingdom !!!  
 A discussion of v. 33 False ideas of the meaning Correct ideas of the meaning

## Discussion

### I. DISCUSSION OF VERSE 33

#### A. "Seek"

1. "To look for, to search after, to pursue, or to endeavor to obtain" [Arndt & Gingrich P. 339] Desire
2. Word is found 214 times in Bible.
3. Here in the verse it is used in such a way as to mean "keep on seeking" -- keep on searching, striving for
4. Seek = hunt, pursue, search

#### B. "First"

1. Prior to other things - Before all others - at the beginning
2. Firstly - first of all
3. Every person has some one thing which is most important in his life
4. If a person does not put God first in his life, then he puts some "god" first.

#### C. "Kingdom of God"

1. Church and kingdom are the same
2. Mk. 1:14-15 - "...kingdom of God is at hand:..."
3. Put the Church First - not second, third, or last

#### D. "and his Righteousness"

1. Right Doing - or doing God's Will -
2. In the church we are to live as Children of God - not like sinners. -- but Godly living
3. We have given up our old man - been born again - raised to walk in newness of life.

E. **"and all these things shall be added unto you."**

1. All these things - Necessities such as food, clothing, shelter
2. Added - God will make sure you have these essentials for life.
3. Taken from a phrase which meant that the seller gave a little extra - like our baker's dozen. This is an extra amount or overplus.
4. In addition to the blessings which will come for seeking first his Kingdom and Righteousness we will also be given these material necessities.

**II. SOME FALSE IDEAS OF THE MEANING "Seek Ye First"**

A. **Asceticism**

1. This is the belief that if you mistreat the body and deny the fulfillment of bodily appetites, then you will be closer to God.
2. In **Col. 2:20-22** we learn that they had a problem like this in the first century church.
3. Monks wanted to seek first the kingdom so they withdrew from society and lived in monastery.
4. They took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
5. These people did everything to make their body more miserable.
6. This was a false idea of how to seek first the kingdom of God.

B. **WORSHIP and TEACHING**

1. Some preachers have claimed, or implied, that the only time we are seeking first the kingdom of God is when we are at the worship services or teaching the Bible to someone. Seeking first does involve worship & teaching. But that is not the only time.

2. This would cause people to feel guilty if they spend time with their families, are working at a job to make a living or just plain relaxing after a hard day's work.
3. That is a false idea of what it means to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

C. **CANNOT BE WEALTHY**

1. A few people have the false idea that one can't be wealthy and at the same time seeking first the kingdom.
2. There are examples in the Bible of people with wealth who were pleasing to God - Abraham is one example.
3. The Bible does not teach that it is wrong to have wealth.
4. We are taught against covetousness and the misuse of wealth.

D. **NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN**

1. Some have the mistaken idea that if we will study the Bible and do what it says that our life will be free of all problems.
2. Job is an example of a man who was very good, obedient to the Lord, but he had terrible things happen to him in his life.
3. Paul was a faithful soldier of Christ and was seeking first the kingdom. But he was persecuted and imprisoned.
4. Godly people sometimes suffer **II Tim. 3:12**
5. God has not promised that our lives will be free of difficulties.
6. But he has promised that He will be with us and help us through the difficulties.

### **III. WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN WHEN HE TELL US TO "Seek Ye First" ?**

#### **A. GOD'S KINGDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE MATERIAL THINGS**

1. Our interest in the church should be first.
2. Jesus died for it, he gave his life for it, it is his bride.
3. Col. 3:1-2 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
4. Money and material goods will perish
5. **I Tim. 6:6-10**

#### **B. OBEY ALL OF TEACHINGS OF JESUS**

1. One who seeks first the kingdom of God does not choose and pick
2. Dedication to God means we do all he says, because he says it.
3. **Mt. 7:21-23**
4. Lk. 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
5. Partial obedience is really disobedience
6. One cannot seek first the kingdom unless he willingly keeps all the teachings of God.

#### **C. MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES**

1. When a Christian is confronted with a choice of following Jesus or the world, he will follow Jesus.
2. **Mt. 10:34-36**

3. This may be a hard decision
  - a. It was painful for Abraham to follow God's will in sacrificing Isaac.
  - b. The early Christians had to suffer persecution and death in keeping first the kingdom of God.
4. The rewards of making the right decisions will be the eternal glory and happiness -  
**Rev. 2:10 I Pet. 1:3-5**

#### D. FOLLOWING CHRIST BEFORE ANY OTHER

1. **Lk. 9:59 - 62**
  - a. These two men reversed the divine order
  - b. The emphasis was misplaced
  - c. They made the mistake of placing the good before the best.
  - d. The good is often the worst enemy of the best.
2. This is a common sin
  - a. It is misplacing the emphasis
  - b. These make secondary things primary and primary things secondary
  - c. **Luke 14:26** "Hate" = love less
3. Let us not: Major in minors and Minor in Majors.
4. But let us: Minor in minors and Major in majors.

#### Conclusion

1. We live in a busy world:
  - a. Many demands are made upon our time and energy

- b. We can't possibly do everything we wish to do or that people expect us to do.
  - c. We must select, eliminate, and choose.
  - d. We must select things of major importance and eliminate from our lives things that are minor.
2. Mt. 6:33 stresses the importance of putting first things first.
  3. To Put First things first means that we will:
    - a. PUT GOD'S KINGDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE MATERIAL THINGS
    - b. OBEY ALL OF TEACHINGS OF JESUS
    - c. BE MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES
    - d. FOLLOWING CHRIST BEFORE ANY OTHER
  4. When we have a proper understanding of what it means to seek first the kingdom of God then our lives as Christians can have a deeper richer, and more fruitful, more wonderful meaning for us.
  5. This is a part of God's plan for overcoming worry and anxiety.
  6. Mt. 6:33
  7. Lk. 12:31 "But Rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."
  8. Jn.10:10 "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
  9. This is God's Challenge to man - Seek first the Kingdom.

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