

Not ours, but His

DECEMBER 21, 2020

MATTHEW 6:33 NIV - (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The verse's meaning is as direct as it sounds. We are to seek the things of God as a **priority** over the things of the world. Primarily, it means we are to seek the salvation that is essential in the kingdom of God because it is of greater value than all the world's riches. Does this mean that we should neglect the reasonable and daily duties that help sustain our lives? Certainly not. But for the Christian, there should be a difference in attitude toward them. If we are taking care of God's business as a priority—seeking His salvation, living in obedience to Him, and sharing the good news of the kingdom with others—then He will take care of our business as He promised—and if that's the arrangement, where is worrying?

So where do we primarily spend our energies? Is all our time and money spent on goods and activities that will certainly perish, or in the services of God—the results of which live on for eternity? Believers who have learned to truly put God first may then rest in this holy dynamic: "...and all these things will be given to you as well." Jesus taught that our focus should be away from this world—its status and its lying allurements—and placed upon the things of God's kingdom. The key word is "**Seek**."

The call to "seek first" God's kingdom and righteousness connects to the other teachings Jesus has given in this Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 6:1-2, 5-6, 16-17**). Motives matter, and only by sincerely putting God first can we pursue righteousness. Followers of Christ should prioritize living according to the principles He has been teaching (**Matthew 6:24; John 14:15**). Jesus' earliest message was the same as that of John the Baptist, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (**Matthew 4:17**).

To seek God's kingdom and His righteousness means to live in that ongoing repentance from sin, and to lead the kind of sincere, from-the-heart, devoted-to-God lifestyles Jesus has been describing. In response, God will make provision for whatever it is we truly "**need**" in order to accomplish His will.

SCRIPTURE READING

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"