

SEEK FIRST – THE KINGDOM

Matthew 6:33 ... “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Our verse today is found in a teaching by Christ about worry. You can read the entire passage in verses 25 through 34. Essentially, Jesus is telling us that worrying about what we will eat or wear, is a waste of time for Christians. If you are not a believer, you might need to worry about these needs. However, Christians living in obedience to God, have nothing to worry about. So, why do some people live on the edge of life and worry about what they need?

If you are constantly worried about where you will get your next meal or a clean shirt, then you are not living a life of faith. In verse 32 Jesus tells us that “your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” In verse 27, he says “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?” Worry changes nothing, except to make you more discouraged. It might also cause you to feel desperate and search for an illegal or immoral solution to your problem. When that happens, you allow worry to take you from bad to worse. Worry – or the desperate measures you take to solve your own problems – make your circumstances more difficult and painful, and create greater separation between you and God.

Jesus tells us in verse 33 that the solution to our struggles and hardship, is to seek first the kingdom of God. What does that mean? The Kingdom of God is the governing authority of our Father. For example, the country of Saudi Arabia, in which many Filipinos work, is called the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In that sense, the Saudi kingdom is the governing authority of that country. Ask any Filipino who lives there and they will understand that they live and work under the laws and rules of that kingdom. But there is even a superior kingdom than Saudi Arabia, and that is the Kingdom of God. All peoples and nations on earth dwell within the Kingdom of God, whether they want to or not. Those who respect God’s kingdom and live according to his laws, earn his compassion and will one day enjoy an eternal presence with God. Those who violate the laws of God’s Kingdom, will one day suffer for rejecting God’s authority. In God’s kingdom, rejecting and disobeying him is actually a criminal offense which will earn you punishment.

So, in today’s verse Jesus tell us that if we want our needs met without having to worry, all we need do is seek first – or live according to – the authority of God. Is that not simple? In our next devotional we will look at Jesus’ meaning in his words “his righteousness.”

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