

SEEK FIRST – RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

We are repeating today, the verse we used in the previous devotional, where we pointed out that Jesus instructs us to seek first the kingdom of God, which will help us avoid worrying about the basic things in life we are in need of, such as food and clothing. We said that the kingdom of God is his governing authority over us, just like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the governing authority over Saudi citizens and overseas workers who live and work there.

Jesus cites two things that are vital for us as believers to understand if we can expect him to meet our basic needs. The first is to submit to God’s authority in our lives. The second, is to seek God’s righteousness. That sounds a little confusing, does it not? The Father’s righteousness is a part of his character. How do we seek that?

First we must understand what righteousness is. It is defined in the dictionary and depicted in the Bible, as moral or ethical perfection or purity. The words, “his righteousness” in today’s verse, is a reference to God’s character. Scripture tells us that God is righteous, and Christ is the Righteous One. It also tells us that when we accept the gift of salvation, Christ declares us righteous, even though we are a work-in-progress; even though we will never achieve perfection and purity in this life. Only the righteous can inherit eternal life with God, so Christ declares us righteous in order for us to enjoy that glorious future. This short-cut to heaven, is one of the ways that Christ demonstrates his compassion and love for us. It is a reflection of his grace.

Righteousness is the character of Christ, and you are instructed to become more like him as you mature in your faith; his character is what you should aspire to have in your own life. Therefore, when Jesus tells us in verse 33 to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, he is instructing us to respect God’s authority over us, AND to seek the transformation of our character to be more like Christ – more like his righteousness.

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