



## Seek First the Kingdom of Heaven - 27

This lesson is based on Matthew 6:33.

### **(1) WHERE DID CHRIST TEACH THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD MUST FIRST BEGIN?**

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*Luke 17:21*

**Related Texts:** Luke 12:34; 2 Corinthians 4:18

The people who listened to the words of Christ were still anxiously watching

for some announcement of the earthly kingdom. While Jesus was opening to them the treasures of heaven, the question uppermost in many minds was, How will a connection with Him advance our prospects in the world? Jesus shows that in making the things of the world their supreme anxiety they were like the heathen nations about them, living as if there were no God, whose tender care is over His creatures.

### **(2) LIKE THE WORLDLY NATIONS AROUND THEM, WHAT WAS ISRAEL SEEKING**

**WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEKING GOD'S SPIRITUAL KINGDOM FIRST?**

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*Matthew 6:19*

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 13:5; Luke 19:11

**(3) WHERE HAS CHRIST ASKED US TO PUT OUR PRIORITIES AND, IF DONE, WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM?**

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*Matthew 6:33*

**Related Texts:** 1 Kings 3:11-13; John 6:27

“All these things,” said Jesus, “do the nations of the world seek after.” “Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Luke 12: 30; Matt. 6:32, 33. I have come to open to you the kingdom of love and righteousness and peace. Open your hearts to receive this kingdom, and make its service your highest interest. Though it is a spiritual kingdom, fear not that your needs for this life will be uncared-for. If you give yourself to God’s service, He who has all power in heaven and earth will provide for your needs.

**(4) IN SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM, WHAT DID PAUL SAY THAT INDICATES HOW WE SHOULD CONDUCT ALL THAT WE DO?**

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*Colossians 3:17*

**Related Texts:** Colossians 3:23

Jesus does not release us from the necessity of effort, but He teaches that we are to make Him first and last and best in everything. We are to engage in no business, follow no pursuit, seek no pleasure, that would hinder the outworking of His righteousness in our character and life. Whatever we do is to be done heartily, as unto the Lord.

Jesus, while He dwelt on earth, dignified life in all its details by keeping before men the glory of God, and by subordinating everything to the will of His Father. If we follow His example, His assurance to us is that all things needful in this life “shall be added.” Poverty or wealth, sickness or health, simplicity or wisdom—all are provided for in the promise of His grace.

**(5) WHAT THREE SPECIFIC CHOICES ON OUR PART WILL ALLOW THE LORD TO DIRECT OUR PATHS AS WE ARE SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?**

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*Proverbs 3:5, 6*

**Related Texts:** Proverbs 3:1-35; Psalm 37:5-7; 62:8; 115:11; 146:3-9

God's everlasting arm encircles the soul that turns to Him for aid, however feeble that soul may be. The precious things of the hills shall perish, but the soul that lives for God shall abide with Him. "The world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2:17. The city of God will open its golden gates to receive him who learned while on earth to lean on God for guidance and wisdom, for comfort and hope, amid loss and affliction. The songs of the angels will welcome him there, and for him the tree of life shall yield its fruit. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:10.

**(6) WHEN WE ARE TRUSTING GOD AND SEEKING FIRST HIS KINGDOM, WHAT DID CHRIST SAY NOT TO DO CONCERNING TOMORROW?**

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*Matthew 6:34*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 6:25; Psalm 104

If you have given yourself to God, to do His work, you have no need to be anxious for tomorrow. He whose servant you are, knows the end from the beginning. The events of tomorrow, which are hidden from your view, are open to the eyes of Him who is omnipotent.

**(7) WHAT TWO-PART INVITATION WITH PROMISE DOES CHRIST GIVE TO THOSE WHO ARE HEAVY LADEN WITH THE CARES OF THIS WORLD?**

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*Matthew 11:28-30*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 116:7; Hebrews 4:1

When we take into our hands the management of things with which we have to do, and depend upon our own wisdom for success, we are taking a burden which God has not given us, and are trying to bear it without His aid. We are taking upon ourselves the responsibility that belongs to God, and thus are really putting ourselves in His place. We may well have anxiety and anticipate danger and loss, for it is certain to befall us. But when we really believe that God loves us and means to do us good we shall cease to worry about the future. We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles and torments will disappear, for our will is swallowed up in the will of God.

**(8) WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM NOT ONLY FOR OUR DAILY PHYSICAL NEEDS BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR DAILY SPIRITUAL NEEDS?**

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## Seek First the Kingdom of Heaven

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### *Lamentations 3:22, 23*

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 10:23; Isaiah 33:2; Psalm 103:4, 11, 17

Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9); but, like the manna given in the wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day's need. Like the hosts of Israel in their pilgrim life, we may find morning by morning the bread of heaven for the day's supply.

### **(9) AS WE WALK THROUGH THE JOURNEY OF LIFE, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR US, WHAT DOES THE LORD CALL US TO DO ONE DAY AT A TIME?**

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### *1 Peter 5:7*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 55:22; 56:3, 4; 37:5

One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ,

*I choose to trust in the Lord with all my heart, lean not unto my own understanding, in all my ways acknowledge Him so He can work in my life and direct my paths.*

**Circle:    Yes    Undecided**

in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for us. "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 30:15.

### **(10) WHEN WE DAILY GIVE CHRIST OUR ANXIETIES AND SEEK HIS KINGDOM, WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM?**

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### *Philippians 4:6, 7*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 29:11; 62:8; 55:17

If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ,—the yoke of obedience and service,—all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved.

*I choose not to fear the future, to daily seek first God's kingdom and trust my life in His hands. Thank you Father for meeting my daily needs and leading me into your kingdom.*

**Circle:    Yes    Undecided**