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Series: The Kingdom Way

Message Title: The Kingdom Way (part 1)

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow [seed] nor reap [the harvest] nor gather [the crops] into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Philippians 4:19

And my God will liberally supply (fill until full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Part 1:

Looking at the Scriptures above, what does Jesus want you to “seek first”? And what does “seek” mean to you? Define the term to the full. To place a low worth on your life is to not know God or your true value. If God wants to supply your needs, why strive so hard to be independent of His supply? Do we doubt His character? And if we do, is it reasonable to think there might be consequences to that?

S.Marshall thoughts:

It is deeply concerning that we as Believers put more confidence in government and programs to meet our needs, than God. This is proof that we struggle with the command of Jesus to “seek first the Kingdom of God”. Yes, it is a command, not a suggestion. In the context of Matthew 6 we see that Jesus is giving us His way, the Kingdom way, in answer to all the failed substitutes that mankind conjures up.

Have someone read:

Matthew 6:33 (Amplified)

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

Matthew 6:31-32

Therefore do not worry or be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’

³² For the [pagan] Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; [but do not worry,] for your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Discussion Part 2:

Isn't it comforting to know that regardless of the political or financial condition of our day, Jesus does not want you anxious? It is not God's plan, or will for you to be scratching your head wondering how you will get your needs met. Discuss the pivotal nature of the word "But" starting verse 33. I believe our English teachers would tell us it is a conjunction, and contrasts what comes before with what comes after. In other words, Jesus contrasts all the ways of the world with the anxiety, distractions, uneasiness, and lack, with the Kingdom Way. His Way adds. Discuss this.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

If you only knew one Bible verse, Matthew 6:33 would put you on track to be honoring the King of kings. It is a Jesus' command. It actually puts Him in the context of having a kingdom, and therefore, confirms His throne in our heart. That is honor.

Life Application:

- 1) Assess your inner reality. (Are you anxious, afraid, doubting, depressed, lost)
- 2) Repent. (Do not be religious. Change your mind. Think the Kingdom plan/way)
- 3) Pursue the Kingdom way. (How will you apply Matthew 6:33?)
- 4) Let God add. (You need to know, believe, receive His benefits now - don't wait until it's a crisis to try and figure out step 1, 2, 3 ... activate the Kingdom way now)

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Lord God you taught us to seek first Your Kingdom. First of all, we repent of not taking that commandment seriously and instead, pursuing You the way we felt, or thought, independent of Your Word. Help us Holy Spirit to know how to seek the Kingdom of God first, and as our top priority. We need the benefits that only come from being in the dominion of Jesus reign. ..."
(Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)