

**Matthew 6:25-34**  
**Seek First**  
**(The King and His Kingdom)**

**The King and His Kingdom: Matthew presents Jesus as the King –**

A) A King who came to introduce a New Kingdom to the world – **Now and not Yet/ 32X .....**

B) The Now aspect is represented by a new mindset - a new way of living. – New priorities  
1) People who are a part of His Kingdom – **will live differently than those in the world.**

C) The NOT Yet aspect – is one day – the Kingdom of Jesus will be fully represented on Earth – **2<sup>nd</sup> coming**

1) But until then – it is to be represented by those of us who have been captured by it!

D) This is a theme in Matthew's gospel - We See this loud and clear in our text today.

**But this is what we have seen so far!**

A) Chapter 3:2 John the Baptist – and 4:17 – Jesus – issuing the Cry of the Kingdom – **“Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”**

B) Then in 4:23 The message of the Kingdom **Jesus went about preaching the gospel (good news) of the Kingdom.**

1) **The Kingdom message is a message of good news – there is hope for mankind**

C) Matthew 5:3 The heart posture of the Kingdom – **“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

D) In Matthew 5:19 Jesus talked about those who would be the least and greatest in the Kingdom

E) And in 5:20 – Huge statement: **Their righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees to even enter the Kingdom.**

1) Religious leaders were focused on the outward – actions – Not the heart

**Then we saw here in Chapter 6 Jesus teaching the Disciples to pray: 6:10 “Your Kingdom come – your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

A) 6:13 A declaration of glory to God – His Sovereignty - **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

B) Do you see the theme? – Emphasis

C) Finally – it all comes to a culmination in this statement – our text today – The Kingdom pursuit **V.33 Seek First the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you**

Pray:

**The last couple of weeks we have been talking about the Privilege and Power of Prayer!**

A) Prayer was a vital part of the Life of Jesus. –

B) I read this week about a Baptist Church in a small town in MT Vernon Texas.

B) A local Business owner – was constructing a new Bar in the town and the Church protested –  
1) They started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers.

C) Work progressed right up till the week before opening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground.

1) The Bar owner **sued the church on the grounds** that the church prayers was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building,

D) The church denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise

**As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork.**

A) At the hearing he commented, **“I don't know how I'm going to decide this case. It appears that we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not.”**

B) Do you believe in prayer? – How much do you pray?

**DO You know what the opposite of prayer is?**

A) Worry!!! Worry is prayer in Reverse:

B) Worry makes my problems get bigger – Prayer makes them get smaller.

1)Worry is grabbing a hold of tomorrow and dragging it into today

C)The set up for V.33 The Pursuit of the Kingdom is V.25-32 – Jesus talks about worry –

1)Daily Provision: Consider the context

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Pause right there and give me your attention.

The 1<sup>st</sup> thing we need to note here is THIS: the things that Jesus mentions here were very important to the people he was talking to,

A)Mostly poor – hard working people – Food, water, clothing were big issues

B)Those were the things they worried a lot about.

1)They didn’t have closets full of clothes – or Refrigerators full of food.

C)Food and clothing were daily necessities That they worried about

Most of us are not worried about those things: We are not worried about what we are going to eat-

A)Look around the room that is obvious – no one under nourished here.

B)In fact - Some of you – are not worried about IF you are going to eat today

1)YOU are worried about WHERE you are going to eat - WHAT you are going to eat

C)Are we all going to agree on the Place - too many choices – mood for Italian, Mexican, Sushi

And We are not worried about what we are going to wear – Most of us have more clothes than we need.

A)In fact - Some of you ladies tried on more than one outfit today trying to figure out what you wanted to wear.

B)AND Some of you guys probably should have tried on something else – because what you chose is not working at all.

C)People in the first century might have been prone to look at us and think:

1)You guys probably don’t worry about anything/

But we have worries don’t we?

A)We worry about – Jobs – worry if we are ever going to be able to retire

B)Can we Afford to send our kids to college?

1)Pay for the wedding

C)Our kids graduating college with Huge student loans are worried if they are going to be able to get Jobs in their Field of study – PAY OFF THE LOAN

D)Newlyweds worry – Will we be able to buy a house

E)Worry about – Am I going to be able to take care of my aging parents

1)Aging parent worry about - Who is going to take care of me when I can’t take care of myself.

So there are many things that we worry about – Jesus is going to challenge us in this way:

A)Why are you worrying ?– The first thing he wants us to understand: As Children of God –

B)As people who are Part of His Kingdom – The first thing he says to Consider is YOUR VALUE V.26

<sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. (Look at the birds – not having Ulcers – not downing Maalox – Always singing

BIG QUESTION: Are you not of more value than they? (YES) GOD DID NOT SEND JESUS TO DIE FOR THE BIRDS

C)The birds aren’t stressed out so why are you? Next Jesus asks - DOES WORRYING Accomplish anything anyway? Does it do any good?

<sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

A)The word worry in the Greek language means – to be torn apart!

B)That is such a great description of what worry does. It tears you apart!

C) **Picture a boat in a horrendous storm:** Tossed to and fro by the waves until it literally starts to break in half.

D) That is what worry does – Lives torn apart by uncertainty and unrest.

Corrie ten Boom – Hiding place – Survivor Nazi Persecution WWII *“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, “it empties today of its strength.”*

**Our English word worry comes from an Anglo Saxon word that means to Strangle.**

A) That too is a good description – Worry strangles your peace – your joy – it can strangle the life right out of you.

B) All of us know what that feels like and I would venture to say that some of you are feeling that way right now!

1) Worry has a STRANGLE HOLD ON YOU!

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones- *“The result of worrying about the future is that you are crippling yourself in the present.”*

A) Notice how Jesus ends this subject in V.34 <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

B) Tomorrow has enough problems: Worry is dragging tomorrows trouble into today.

C) Dr. E Stanley Jones: *“Worry is the interest we pay on tomorrow’s troubles.”*

**Worry doesn’t accomplish anything- only tears apart**

<sup>28</sup>“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup>and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

A) When we are caught up in worry it shows that we are simply not trusting in God.

B) Jesus wants us to not only remember **our Value** - **#2 Our Fathers Care**

C) Look at the Lilly’s - Awesome flower – beautiful they don’t toil or spin. – not straining  
1) Seed – Water – Sunlight – BLOOM - **They are accomplishing what they were designed to do!**

**More beautiful than Solomon in all of his glory! Solomon dressed in finest linen: Imported –**

A) Solomon riding in his Chariot – Young men ride beside him – all Jet black hair – gold dust – glisten

B) Doesn’t compare to the Lilly - Jesus says Look – saying Look close – Magnify –

1) Magnify a Lilly – you know what happens – even more glorious –

C) **Magnify Solomon’s Linen** – Starts to look like Burlap – weave – Magnify more – MITES

1) Hotels - Scary and gross

D) Jesus’ point: Father takes care of the Lilly’s – He’ll take care of you.

**One day a man was rushing through the airport to catch his plane because he was late.**

A) He started **weaving in and out** of the crowds walking to their gates with moves that would make an NFL running back proud.

B) Then he bumped into a man dressed in a flight uniform, - Passenger paused to apologize

1) The man in the uniform – what is the hurry?

**The Man replied – I don’t want to miss my flight!**

A) The man in the uniform asked: “Where are you going?” What is the Flight number?

B) The Man told him – “I’m going to Austin, Delta flight 334

1) the man in the flight uniform replied with a smile – **“relax and stop worrying,”**

C) **“I’m the pilot on that flight, and that plane won’t go anywhere without me.”**

1) Immediately the worried traveler was able to slow down and rest “because he knew who the pilot was.

2) I am ok – I am with the pilot !

D) So too - Knowing who God is and our relationship to Him should **change our anxiety, frustration, and irritation on all levels.**

E)Worrying doesn't accomplish anything good!

<sup>31</sup> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek.

A)In reality – Worry Makes us like an unbeliever

B)The person who doesn't know God -  
V32b For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Bb) In Luke's account of this teaching – he adds –  
<sup>32</sup> "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. - Luke 12:32

C)It is his good pleasure to give you the Kingdom – 1)Translation – He is so blessed by BLESSING YOU! – Do you Believe that?

So if you really believe that - Here is what you are to do <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

You know what is **the convicting word** in v.33 – **THE WORD FIRST.**

B)If Jesus simply said – **So SEEK the kingdom** of God - Ok – I will add it to the list

C)SEEK FIRST - #1 Priority – Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness

1)Seek = pursue – seek is in the present progressive sense – this is a daily thing – not a one time thing

D)Ongoing – mark the way that we live our lives!

**What does this mean? Is Jesus simply saying – Seek God the Father above everything else?**

A) I think if that is all he meant – he would have simply said that –

B)Seek the Father who loves you – values/ cares  
1)Mentions God as Father 17 times in Sermon on the Mount – including 12 times in this chapter

**But Jesus doesn't simply instruct us – Seek God your Father above all else.**

A)I will say: Seeking first the Kingdom is definitely going to involve that – Seeking first the King

B)It means to prioritize God in every area of your life.

1)Your relationship with Him comes first!

C)But this is bigger than that! -

1)But Jesus uses specific language here: <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

D)Jesus is describing a different mentality in living –a different pursuit that brings everything into place

1)TRUE NORTH – headed in the right direction/  
**this is going to help me in fulfilling my purpose –**

**So What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?**

A)To seek first the Kingdom of God is to prioritize His Kingdom in your life

B)His Kingdom speaks of His Agenda – His Rule His heart – Your way over my way: family career  
1)It is remembering: I have been redeemed to be a part of His Kingdom – I have a Purpose.

C)I see and talk to too many believers who don't get this: They are merely existing in life – day to day

**They work what they think is a dead end Job – No real purpose beyond making a living**

A)Providing for family – trying to have a little fun on their day off – hoping one day to retire.

B)In the eyes of Jesus – people who live that way – are merely existing – not really living!

1)**I have come that they may have life..... ABUNDANTLY!**

C)Jesus wants us to understand: We have been brought into something HUGE – his Kingdom

1)We have a purpose to play in that Kingdom  
Impact others – Shine for Jesus

**D)When I prioritize His Kingdom in my life – that is what I am recognizing – This is why I am here.**

1) So Pray tomorrow – going to work – what do you want me to do today? – Lord I am open.

E) Listen You might pray that for 30 days in a row and there is nothing different that happens

1) Day 31 – Jesus brings a person or situation into your life – THIS IS IT

**Seeking first the Kingdom of God – is prioritizing His Kingdom his agenda – his rule – my heart**

A) Seeking first His Righteousness is prioritizing His way – Your way is right – Do things Your way

B) Lord guide me today – be your witness today – see you in how I work – live – How I love

**C) Prioritizing God – His person**

**Prioritizing His Kingdom – His Purpose**

**Prioritizing His righteousness – His way**

**Here is the benefit: all these things will be added to you.**

A) The necessities of life will be taken care of. Everything that others are worried about

B) You will have exactly what Your Father wants you to have.

C) But even more important: Like the Lilly – you will be accomplishing your purpose – Your design

D) The very reason – why you exist – YOU WILL BE RADICALLY FULFILLED.

**I am currently teaching a class out at the Bible college on the book of Judges –**

A) Homework assignment – How do you want to be remembered? Friends, Spouse, kids, church?

B) Might think that is an odd assignment to give a bunch of 18, 19, 20 year olds.

1) I don't think so – in reality their answer to that question – Chart their vision – their purpose.

C) What they are going to pursue! – Been said that

**“Direction not your intentions that determines your destination.”**

D) Great intentions – but if I never move in that direction – never seek to grow – never be a reality.

E) So I asked them to write papers – Answering that question – Some good responses

**I think it is an even greater question for us to consider- because most of us here are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our lives**

A) What happens in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is often what is remembered.

**B) Football – great 2<sup>nd</sup> half comebacks – We just saw a great one Patriots rallying 28-3 to win the game.**

C) Atlanta had a great first half – only to be outplayed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half

1) People will remember the Patriots comeback for a really long time – **but you know what they will forget? – Who they were playing – Unless Falcon fan**

**Example – The greatest Playoff comeback in NFL history was Bills 1993**

**Down 35-3 at half time.**

A) Rallied back to win – 41-38 – Playing without QB Jim Kelly – RB Thurman Thomas – LB C. Bennett -

**B) How many remember that game? - Who remembers who they were playing?**

C) Houston Oilers –

**See what happens in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is often what is remembered the most.**

A) True for our lives – our ministry – How do you want to be remembered ?

B) That is your INTENTION:

C) DOES THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE MATCH THAT – intention?

**<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Prioritize God – His person

Prioritize His Kingdom – His Purpose

Prioritize His Righteousness – His way