

What Do You Need to Choose?

International Bible Lesson

Matthew 6:25-34

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“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”
(Matthew 6:33—NRSV).

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

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33—KJV).

Jesus taught His followers to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). If we love God first and foremost, in addition to praying for His kingdom to come, we will strive to live consciously according to the laws of His kingdom. For example, when we live consciously as citizens or subjects of any nation, we know many of the laws that the government expects us to obey. We stop at stop signs, because we know that the government places stop signs at intersections for the safety of all. Jesus wants us to know what God requires in His kingdom so we will regulate our lives according to His laws. Jesus wants His followers to obey the laws of the kingdom of God because they love the King, and not because they expect special credit for doing what is right. No government gives gold medals to those who stop at stop signs, because the government naturally expects people to do what is right for everyone’s benefit.

In the kingdom of God, just laws and regulations apply to everyone equally. The Great King rules over all human governments, but human governments do not always apply laws justly; however, Jesus promised that God will “grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night” (Luke 18:7). If the followers of Jesus suffer unfairly on Earth, they will receive justice from God in heaven. Jesus also promised that if we strive to live right in the kingdom of God on Earth, the King will provide the things we need.

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Thinking Further

1. What are some events and practices that can influence us to worry?
2. What are some means that we can use to defeat the temptations to worry?
3. What does Jesus say about a person who worries?
4. What are some of the actions that Jesus tells us to take so we do not worry?
5. What are some of the things we know about God that will help us not worry?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.