

Understanding

The

Kingdom

Part V

Matthew 6:33

Key Verse:

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

*33 But seek **first** THE KINGDOM OF GOD and His righteousness,
and all these **things shall be added to you.***

Why Study This Series....

*It Is Difficult To Seek Something That You Don't **Know** What It Is
You Don't Know What It Looks Like
You Don't Know What It Consists Of*

The Proper Perspective Enhances My Pursuit

Review....

Let's Define The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is GOD'S SOVEREIGN RULE AND REIGN

The Kingdom of God is where God Is King and His Will Is Obeyed

*The KINGDOM AGENDA is God's Redemptive Plan to establish His rule,
reflect His righteousness, and advance His reign in the earth—
through people who live under His authority.*

Week One Key Points

*Man was given **Dominion** over all things*

*Man forfeited his **Dominion** because of **Disobedience** to God's Word*

*From the Beginning there has been a **System** of Violence, Crime, and Division*

*We Must Not Choose Our **Preference** over God's **Principles** and God's **Plans***

*God's desire was to **Re-establish His Kingdom** On Earth Through Jesus Christ*

*Religion Looks Toward **Heaven**, The Kingdom Agenda Brings **Heaven to Earth***

*This Agenda can be seen in My **Prayer Life**, My **Priorities**, and My **Peace***

Week Two

The Kingdom Has 4 Key Elements

A King ~ Territory ~ Principles ~ Citizens

Compare This To The Church or Religious System

A Pastor/Bishop ~ Local Assembly ~ Bylaws ~ Members

Week Three....

Focused on Kingdom Citizenship vs. Church Membership

Shifting Believers from

A Membership Mindset to a Citizenship Mandate....

From just Attending Church to Advancing the Kingdom...

Done Through

Monitoring Our Conduct

Understanding The Commission

Overcoming Conflict

Last Week....
How The Kingdom Influences and Impacts
The Culture

THE KINGDOM MUST BE PRIORITIZED
WE MUST MAINTAIN A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE
KINGDOM PRESENCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED
KINGDOM PRINCIPLES MUST BE PRACTICED
KINGDOM POWER WILL BE DEMONSTRATED.

AND WHEN KINGDOM POWER IS DEMONSTRATED,
CULTURE IS NO LONGER JUST WATCHING...
IT IS RESPONDING....

Tonight's Focus....

KINGDOM PROVISIONS

Key Passages

2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
SO THAT having all sufficiency in all things **at all times**,
YOU MAY ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT)

8 And God will generously provide all you need.
Then you will always have everything you need
AND PLENTY LEFT OVER TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

Introduction

We live in a time where **GOD'S PROVISION** has been confused with **PERSONAL PROSPERITY**.

We Celebrate and Shout Over Increase

But Rarely Do We Talk About The Intent For The Increase

Every provision from heaven **IS CONNECTED** to an assignment on earth.

If God provided it, He already planned where it should go.

God supplies based on what He intends to accomplish, **NOT** what we desire to consume.

Instead of asking: "What assignment does this fund?"

WE STARTED ASKING: "WHAT LIFESTYLE DOES THIS AFFORD?"

GOD DOES NOT FUND LIFESTYLES—HE FINANCES ASSIGNMENTS.

Somewhere along the way, **PROVISION SHIFTED FROM ASSIGNMENT TO APPEARANCE.**

God did not **ENRICH ABRAHAM** so he could **look blessed**—

He **ENRICHED HIM SO ALL FAMILIES** of the earth could **BE BLESSED.**

PROVISION IS NOT ABOUT PERSONAL PROSPERITY ~ IT IS ABOUT KINGDOM PURPOSE.

#1 ~ Kingdom Provision Is Purpose-Driven

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, *you will abound in every good work.*

GOD RELEASES PROVISION IN PROPORTION TO PURPOSE...

Paul does not say... God Provides

For personal elevation ~ *For private accumulation*

He says: "For every good work.

That means: Abundance is assigned, not accidental

Increase is mission-specific

Provision is God's investment into His agenda

It Is Important To Understand Purpose

If you don't understand your Purpose, you'll misuse the supply.

Many People Believe God Gives Blessings For *Us To Enjoy*...

Scripture Reveals It Is *For Kingdom Purpose*

The Enjoyment Comes *When You Impact and Influence* The Kingdom

DOES YOUR BUSINESS ALIGN WITH GOD'S BUSINESS

#1 ~ Kingdom Provision Is Purpose-Driven

Biblical Illustration

Exodus 25:1-9 (NLT)

1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “TELL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO BRING ME THEIR SACRED OFFERINGS.

Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them.

3 Here is a list of sacred offerings you may accept from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

4 blue, purple, and scarlet thread; fine linen and goat hair for cloth;

5 tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood;

6 olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense;

7 onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest’s chestpiece.

8 “HAVE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BUILD ME A HOLY SANCTUARY SO I CAN LIVE AMONG THEM.

9 You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.

PURPOSE/ASSIGNMENT: BUILD ME A HOUSE SO THAT I CAN LIVE AMONG YOU!!!!

The Purpose Is Established In Exodus 25

God Is Clear With The What....

God Is Clear With The Why...

God Is Clear With The Who....

BUT HE NEVER ADDRESSESS WHERE THEY WILL GET IT FROM

#1 ~ Kingdom Provision Is Purpose-Driven

Biblical Illustration

Exodus 12:35-36 (NLT)

35 And the people of Israel did as Moses had instructed;

THEY ASKED THE EGYPTIANS FOR CLOTHING AND ARTICLES OF SILVER AND GOLD.

36 The Lord caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, *and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. SO, THEY STRIPPED THE EGYPTIANS OF THEIR WEALTH!*

Before They Came Out Of The Slavery ~ God Had Already Provided For His Purpose

He Gave Them The Funding Needed For Future Assignment

What Could Be Confused With Personal Prosperity ~ Was Purpose Driven Provisions

So The Question Is Not Why Is God Blessing Me Like This...

The Question Is What Is God Blessing Me Like This For...

Exodus 36:5-7 (NLT)

5 They went to Moses and reported, "The people *have given more than enough* materials to complete the job *the Lord has commanded us to do!*"

6 So Moses gave the command, and this message was sent throughout the camp: "Men and women, don't prepare any more gifts for the sanctuary. *We have enough!*" So the people stopped bringing their sacred offerings.

7 Their contributions were more than enough to complete the whole project.

#1 ~ Kingdom Provision Is Purpose-Driven

Biblical Illustration

Genesis 41:41-46 (NLT)

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, *“I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.”*

42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph’s finger.

He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck.

43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, *“Kneel down!”* So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said to him, *“I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval.”*

46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

HE UNDERSTOOD PURPOSE

Genesis 45:5-8 (NLT)

5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place.

It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.

8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—

THE MANAGER OF HIS ENTIRE PALACE and the governor of all Egypt.

#2 ~ Kingdom Provision Requires Faithful Stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV)

2 Moreover, it is *required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.*

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)

2 Now, *a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.*

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

2 Now it is *required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

What God Provides, Must Be Managed, Before He Multiplies

Luke 16:10-12 (NLT)

10 *“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.*

But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.

11 *And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?*

12 *And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?*

*Every Provision Demands **Accountability** To Guard Against **Accumulation***

We Don’t Own The Provision... We Oversee It

What You Handle Well Today... Determines What God Gives You Tomorrow

Romans 14:12 (NIV)

12 *So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

#2 ~ Kingdom Provision Requires Faithful Stewardship

Misuse Comes From Not Understanding The Difference Between

MINE vs. **MANAGER**

If God Trusted You With It ~ He Intends To Test You With It

Genesis 22:1-2 (NLT)

1 Some time later, **God tested Abraham's faith**. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

2 "Take **your son**, your only son—yes, Isaac, **whom you love so much**—and go to the land of Moriah.

Go and **sacrifice him as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

Genesis 22:10-13 (NLT)

10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him

from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" 12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!"

the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, **FOR NOW I KNOW THAT YOU TRULY FEAR GOD.**

YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD FROM ME EVEN YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON."

13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket.

How Do We Handle Kingdom Provision

- 1) **Recognition** ~ Everything Belongs To God
- 2) **Responsibility** ~ I Have Been Entrusted With Kingdom Resources
- 3) **Reliability** ~ My Faithfulness Qualifies Me For Future Increase
- 4) **Release** ~ When I Release Back Into The Kingdom, God Gives Increase To The Citizen

#2 ~ Kingdom Provision Requires Faithful Stewardship

Faithfulness With Kingdom Resources

Acts 2:42-45 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

God Gave Kingdom Provisions To Meet All Needs

The Purpose Was Identified ~ They Managed The Resources

Acts 5:1-5 (NIV)

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also **sold a piece of property.**

2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself,
but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that **Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

4 **Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?**

What made you think of doing such a thing? **YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO MEN BUT TO GOD."**

5 **When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.** And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

It Was Not Primarily About The Money... It's About Misrepresenting Stewardship In The Kingdom

#3 ~ Kingdom Provision Increases For Kingdom Assignments

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, *you will abound in every good work.*

SUPERNATURAL ABUNDANCE is not a reward for good behavior or proof of God's general favor
*IT'S THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR SPECIFIC KINGDOM ASSIGNMENTS
THAT REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY MEANS.*

*THE ABUNDANCE ISN'T THE BLESSING; THE ASSIGNMENT IS
IF GOD GAVE IT, IT CAME WITH AN ASSIGNMENT.*

What God gives you *beyond what you need*... it's for what He's assigned you to do.
He releases *ABUNDANCE* to keep His work advancing.

Luke 12:48 (NIV)

48From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;
and *FROM THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH, MUCH MORE WILL BE ASKED.*

#3 ~ Kingdom Provision Increases For Kingdom Assignments

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, **you will abound in every good work.**

CLARIFY THE ASSIGNMENT TO RECEIVE THE PROVISION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (NLT)

1 Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. 2 So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, 3 but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

4 The king asked, **"WELL, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?" WITH A PRAYER TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN,**

5 I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant,
send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

6 The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?"

After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

7 I **ALSO** said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

8 And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

AND THE KING GRANTED THESE REQUESTS, BECAUSE THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD WAS ON ME.

There is a Problem ~ There Are Partners ~ There Is Prayer

In Conclusion

#1 ~ Kingdom Provision Is Purpose-Driven

#2 ~ Kingdom Provision Requires Faithful Stewardship

#3 ~ Kingdom Provision Increases For Kingdom Assignments