

What Does Seek First the Kingdom of God Mean? 2

Subtitle: Doing righteousness.

Mat 6:33 (NASB) "But seek first His kingdom **and His righteousness**, and all these things will be provided to you.

What does He mean when He says seek first His Kingdom.

Last week I tried to establish that this had to do with security. The very thing that the gentiles, those without God seek above all else.

As followers of Christ we are not to be **Mat 6:8 (NASB) "So do not be like them; ...**

We are not to think like them, behave like them or believe like them.

So as part of that separation Jesus said, Seek first His Kingdom not self promotion or preservation.

AND...His righteousness and that is what I want to cover today.

What does Jesus mean by including "His Righteousness." In this statement.

First, you will constantly find it hard to do that second part of the statement till you have committed to doing the first part.

There is a reason why Jesus said, "His Kingdom" before He said, "His Righteousness."

You gotta trust him first!

Its always been about loving God enough to trust God and trusting God enough to obey God.

OK. So lets see what Jesus meant by "seek His righteousness."

Mat 6:1 (NASB) “Take care not to **practice your righteousness** in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

That word practice, apply, use or do

Mat 6:2-4 (TPT) So when you give to the poor, [Jesus is saying, giving to the poor is doing your righteousness] don’t announce it and make a show of it just to be seen by people, like the hypocrites in the streets and in the marketplace. They’ve already received their reward! [3] But when you demonstrate generosity, do it with pure motives and without drawing attention to yourself. [4] Give secretly and your Father, who sees all you do, will reward you openly.”

Jesus makes it plain, demonstrated generosity is the doing of righteousness.

Whenever you engage in activity that alleviates the load of another at the expense of self that is righteousness in action and is what the master had in mind.

Act 10:38 (NASB) “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how **He went about doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Act 10:38 (TPT) “Jesus of Nazareth was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with great power. He did wonderful things for others and divinely healed all who were under the tyranny of the devil, for God had anointed him.

We don’t know all of these wonderful things that Jesus did.

Joh 21:25 (NASB) But there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they were written in detail, I expect that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

And when Judas got up from the table to go betray him the other disciples thought that he must have been going to help someone in need.

Joh 13:29 (TPT) Some thought that Judas, their trusted treasurer, was being told to go buy what was needed for the Passover celebration, or perhaps to go give something to the poor.

Clearly this was a normal occurrence.

Eph 2:10 (NAS95) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Eph 2:10 (CEV) God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

Righteous is who we are, righteousness is what we do.

Living according that this new nature that puts God and others before ourselves and we can afford to put others first because God's got us.

Remember the The Parable of the Good Samaritan?

Why was he called good?

Luk 10:33-37 (TPT) "Finally, another man, a Samaritan, came upon the bleeding man and was moved with tender compassion for him. [34] He stooped down and gave him first aid, pouring olive oil on his wounds, disinfecting them with wine, and bandaging them to stop the bleeding. Lifting him up, he placed him on his own donkey and brought him to an inn. Then he took him from his donkey and carried him to a room for the night. [35] The next morning he took his own money from his wallet and gave it to the innkeeper with these words: 'Take care of him until I come back from my journey. If it costs more than this, I will repay you when I return.' [36] So, now, tell me, which one of the three men who saw the wounded man proved to be the true neighbor?" [37] The religious scholar responded, "The one who demonstrated kindness and mercy." Jesus said, "You must go and do the same as he."

One of the greatest life lessons ever told was about a man who put the needs of an enemy before his own security.

Mat 5:16 (NASB) "Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

What do they see?

What do they do?

Something so selfless, so self sacrificing that when others see it they know that ain't normal.

Something about what they see tells them that ain't human so it must be Divine.

It stands out apart from what normal people do.

So they glorify God!

Mat 5:16 (TPT) So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."

Previously He told us don't announce it and make a show of it just to be seen by people, like the hypocrites in the streets and in the marketplace. They've already received their reward! [3] But when you demonstrate generosity, do it with pure motives and without drawing attention to yourself. [4] Give secretly....

But here He says, So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others It has to do with motives. Who are you drawing attention to? Who gets the credit?

There is no limit to the good a man can do if he doesn't care who gets the credit

-Ed Cole

Mat 5:14 (TPT) "Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop?"

Let it be known far and wide that when you get around us you are going to be loved, blessed, encouraged and edified.

Your righteousness changes the world around you.

If you expect applause you will be disappointed when you don't get it

If you don't expect applause it won't matter when you do get it.

Joh 10:32 (NASB) Jesus replied to them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

It can be a dangerous thing in this world to put yourself out there to help others.

Its risky business to actually love others in deed and not just hallmark cards.

This is why we gotta start with "Seeking First His Kingdom" finding our security in His Words and His Spirit.

Always being ready to lend a hand, to engage, to step up and be a part of the solution.

To give of your day even on a Saturday.

To be an agent of change.

But its a chain of love.

His righteousness changed your life, your righteousness changes their life and their righteousness changes the entire generation.

Did not Christ say, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father.

Stand to your feet!