

2023



## **Week One Devotional**

# **“ORDER MATTERS”...FAITH**

*“First Things First.” Series*



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### **Matthew 6:33 NIV**

**33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Our life is the sum total of all the decisions we make every day, and those decisions are determined by our priorities.

### **Myles Munroe**

Millions call themselves by His name, it is true, and pay some token homage to Him, but a simple test will show how little He is really honored among them. Let the average man be put to the proof on the question of who or what is ABOVE, and his true position will be exposed. Let him be forced into making a choice between God and money, between God and men, between God and personal ambition, God and self, God and human love, and God will take second place every time. Those other things will be exalted above. However, the man may protest, the proof is in the choice he makes day after day throughout his life.

A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine*

Our text is uniquely placed in **Chapter 6** of Matthew's gospel which is found between **Chapters 5-7**. **Chapters 5-7** make up what is called the Sermon on the Mount. St. Augustine described this work as “a perfect standard of the Christian life.” In this single largest discourse found of Jesus in scripture we find the essence of all Jesus teachings. A careful reading of Matthew 6:25-34 will cause you to come face to face with what plagues absolutely everyone if you're honest at some point and that is doubt, fear and worry.

### **Matthew 6:25-34 NIV**

**25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[a]?28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**



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5 times in the span of 10 verses, Jesus instructs us not to worry or be anxious. This is not a suggestion but a command that is to be carried out as a continuous action and attitude for the believer. We sin when we worry because it moves God from the throne and center of our lives to whatever situation and circumstance that is causing the worry.

Worry comes from the old English word “wyrge” which means to strangle or seize by thy throat. Sometimes life can seem like it’s choking you out, but God reminds there is a remedy for it all and it’s all in how we prioritize! Christ addresses our everyday concerns in this section of scripture and shows us that “Order Matters!”

### **LET’S GO TO WORK!**

#### **Matthew 6:31-34 NIV**

**31** So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Pursuit and The Promise

The Pursuit

#### **Matthew 6:33 NIV**

**33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Seek ye=you pursue

Personally, what you pursue has contiguous capabilities. What you do has collateral potential damage.

Ex: Joseph Ossai, defensive end for the Cincinnati Bengals, shoved the Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes as he was going out of bounds in the AFC championship game. A 15-yard penalty was issued that set up the game winning 45-yard winning field goal and the Chiefs will play in the Super Bowl in a few days. Defensive End Ossai made a mistake, but he didn’t lose, the Cincinnati Bengals, the whole team lost because of one player’s mistake.



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So do not think that your actions don't have collateral and contiguous consequences.

1. Place.... kingdom

This kingdom that Jesus is talking about is a place, but it is 3 things.

- a. invisible
- b. covert
- c. disruptive

a. Invisible

### Matthew 3:2 NIV

2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

### Psalm 89:19-29 NIV

Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said: “I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people. 20 I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. 21 My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. 22 The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him. 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries. 24 My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn[a] will be exalted. 25 I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. 26 He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.’ 27 And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. 28 I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. 29 I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.

The kingdom is **NOT** the church!

The kingdom **IS** the realm, rule, and righteousness of God. Wherever that is **THERE** is the kingdom.

The church is the bride of Christ.

For the church the Kingdom is the family business.

b. Covert

Definition not **openly** acknowledged or displayed.

Disciples must operate covertly as opposed to overtly. The covert operation of disciples is planting seeds of rebellion against the ruler of this world, Satan.

**Pastor's Point:** How disciples move, handle themselves is important to the operation of the kingdom.

When we come to Christ **EVERYTHING** changes. When Christ is prioritized and 1st, it's no longer what you want 1st.



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**Relevant question:** What has changed in your coming to Christ?

c. Disruptive

Kingdom work is disruptive! You were called to serve God, **NOT** yourself.

Disruptive Technology

Ex: cars replacing horses and carriages

What we are called to do is radical work!

Explain what it means to be” radical?”

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The Culture of the Kingdom is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Kingdom laws are counter to the laws of mankind.....

**Matthew 5:1-12 NIV**

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Write what the” **BEattitudes**” are saying to you. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need to.

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### 2. Priority

#### **Matthew 6:33 NIV**

**33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Every aspect of life must revolve around the kingdom, King.

The lordship of Christ says that he is either Lord over all or He is not Lord at all.

You cannot serve 2 masters!

#### **Matthew 6:24 NIV**

**24** “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.



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**Helpful Holy Hint:** Christ being 1st is not his name at the top of a list.

Radical thinking is that God is life throughout!

Reread the quote from A. W. Tozer

The Promise

**Matthew 6:33 NIV**

**33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**Relevant question:** How then shall we as God’s children live?

All in! To put Christ above all!

Why? Because of the promise of God.

Write what you have possibly put before God, even the “good” things.

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The promise says....and all these things shall be added...

The Jews had a name for the Provider” Jehovah Jireh...the God who provides.

The good news about God is that He knows what, when and how to provide for his children.

Children will eat all the candy you let them until they get sick. They don’t understand the difference between “need” and “greed.”

**Lynn Foster and her babies’ story...see sermon Sunday...**

**Matthew 7:11 NIV**

**11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**



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It’s amazing how our needs list rivals our “greed” list.

**Relevant question:** Is all these things being added the purpose of our pursuit?

No! It’s the **PROMISE!** This is **NOT** an “if then” promise from God.

Ex: if you wash the dishes, clean your room...then you can, etc.

### **Conditional Promises**

#### **Psalm 84:10-12 NIV**

10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. 12 Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

In a world of worry, God’s word reminds us that it’s futile to worry. That’s easy to say, isn’t it?

Are you a worrier? What keeps you from fully trusting God’s word?

Seek first is in the present imperative tense.

That means we are to be in a continual quest for God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness. When we do this, our focus is no longer on what we wear, eat and drink because we are liberated from our anxieties daily. When we constantly “seek Him” there will be no room for lesser matters. When we seek His kingdom and righteousness the cares of the day flee.