

Kingdom First (#2 of 5) Jan. 15, 2017

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
  - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
  - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
  - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
  - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
  - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
  - **What would it; look like if we treated each other and our neighbours as family? Think about BLESS through the lens of "family."**
2. What did you find compelling and helpful about the message? What did you find confusing or challenging? What questions did it raise for you?
3. Read Luke 12:21-34. Why is worry such a common reality for us as people? In what ways do you struggle with worry? What are the consequences of worry in your life?
4. Discuss the veracity of the statement: ***"Worry is a symptom of a deeper heart issue. It reveals that I'm seeking the Kingdom of Self."*** In what ways have you seen this in your own life?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:7. Psalm 55:22. What is the antidote to worry? What does Jesus say in this regard in the Luke passage? What does it mean to "seek first the Kingdom of God"? What results can you expect from doing so?
6. Reflect on verse 34 *"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."* What does Jesus mean by "treasure"? Why does our heart follow where we invest time, \$, and energy? What is God saying to you in this regard?
7. What kingdom habits is God asking you to embrace today? What action steps will you take today to respond in obedience to Christ?

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## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

#### Kingdom First

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
Jan. 15, 2017



#### The Kingdom means the rule and reign of God.

- **The Kingdom is wherever God exercises His authority, sovereignty, dominion, influence, and power.**

Luke 12:21-34. “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”<sup>22</sup> Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear.”<sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing.<sup>24</sup> Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!<sup>25</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?<sup>26</sup> And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?<sup>27</sup> “Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.”<sup>28</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?<sup>29</sup> “And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things.”<sup>30</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs.<sup>31</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.<sup>32</sup> “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”<sup>33</sup> “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it.”<sup>34</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

**Worry is a symptom of a deeper heart issue. It reveals that I’m seeking the Kingdom of Self.**

*“Christian spiritual formation rests on this indispensable foundation of death to self and cannot proceed except insofar as that foundation is being firmly laid and sustained.” Dallas Willard*

**Big Idea: To experience a flourishing life we need to seek first the Kingdom of God.**

#### How do we seek first the Kingdom?

- **We seek King Jesus and submit to His loving leadership.**

*The Expulsive Power of a New Affection - Thomas Chalmers: “The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is through the expulsive power of a new one.”*

- **We lead our hearts with Kingdom habits.**

<sup>34</sup> “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Jesus

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today’s 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).*