Deep Dive - SEEK FIRST

11/8/26 – Stewart Farley

Scriptures: Matthew 6:22, 32–34

FOLLOW-UP: YOUR WILL BE DONE

Last week we talked about surrender:**"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done."** We challenged ourselves not simply to understand God's will, but to surrender to it and act on what He has made clear.

1. Was there an area last week where you recognized that your will was competing with God's will?
2. Did you take a specific step of surrender or obedience?
3. What made that step easy or difficult?

Transition: The **big idea** of this week's message is: Seeking God's Kingdom first means letting His rule, priorities, and perspective shape how we see and live everything else.

Saying **"Your will be done"** naturally leads us to this week's question: **If I truly want His will, where does His Kingdom rank among everything else I am pursuing?**

1. WHAT DOES "FIRST" REALLY MEAN?

Jesus said, **"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."** The sermon emphasizes the word *first*. God is not simply asking to be included among the many things competing for our attention. He wants His Kingdom to come first.

1. What is the difference between having God **in your life** and having God **first in your life**?
2. What are some good things that can gradually move ahead of God in our priorities?
3. If someone examined our time, attention, energy, and decisions, what might they conclude we are seeking first?
4. What would genuinely putting the Kingdom first look like in your life right now?

Personal Reflection: **What is first on my list? Is it really the Kingdom?**

2. SEEKING GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

The sermon contrasts **God's way of thinking** with our own way of seeing things. Seeking first means seeking God's way, getting His view, and living from His perspective.

It also points to Jesus' illustration of the eye as the lamp of the body. Sight affects direction. The sermon applies this spiritually: how we see affects how we think, walk, talk, act, and relate to others.

1. Where do you see the greatest conflict between **God's point of view and the world's point of view**?
2. Why can the world's perspective sometimes seem more attractive or practical?
3. How does what we continually look at and listen to influence the way we see life?
4. Is there an area of your life where you need to stop asking,*"How do I see this?"* and start asking, **"God, how do You see this?"**

Key Thought: The direction of our lives is connected to the perspective through which we see them.

3. WHAT ARE YOU REALLY SEEKING?

The sermon defines seeking as **energetically going after something**. It acknowledges the tremendous energy we invest in education, careers, employment, success, and other worthwhile pursuits, but challenges us not to give everything to those pursuits while giving little attention to the Kingdom.

1. What are you currently pursuing with the greatest energy?
2. How can we pursue careers, goals, family, and success without allowing them to become **first**?
3. Is there a difference between asking God to fit into our plans and arranging our lives around His Kingdom?
4. Where might your priorities need to be reordered?

Go Deeper: We usually make time for what we truly value. What does the way I spend my time reveal about what I value?

4. SEEING THROUGH THE FOG

The sermon closes with the story of swimmer **Florence Chadwick**, using her experience to illustrate maintaining a picture of the destination even when fog obscures what can physically be seen. It applies that image spiritually: the world's perspective can become like fog that distorts our view, but seeking God's Kingdom helps us maintain the right perspective.

1. What kinds of "fog" can make it difficult for us to see from God's perspective?
2. How can worry about tomorrow distort what God wants us to do today?
3. What helps you keep God's Kingdom in view when circumstances make it difficult to see clearly?
4. What do you think the sermon means by this closing statement? **"You cannot be what you cannot see."** Jo Saxton

CALL TO ACTION: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

Last week we prayed: **"Your will be done."**

This week, take the next step: **"Your Kingdom comes first."**

Before you leave, identify **one area** where something has been competing with God for first place.

Then ask yourself: **What can I change THIS WEEK to show that God's Kingdom is first?**

It might mean changing a priority, redirecting your time, changing how you view a situation, releasing worry, or making a decision from God's perspective rather than your own.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Don't simply add God to everything else you are pursuing. Put Him first.

- Seek His way first.
- Seek His perspective first.
- Seek His Kingdom first.

Change one thing this week that puts the Kingdom back in its proper place, and watch what begins to change around it.